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beginning



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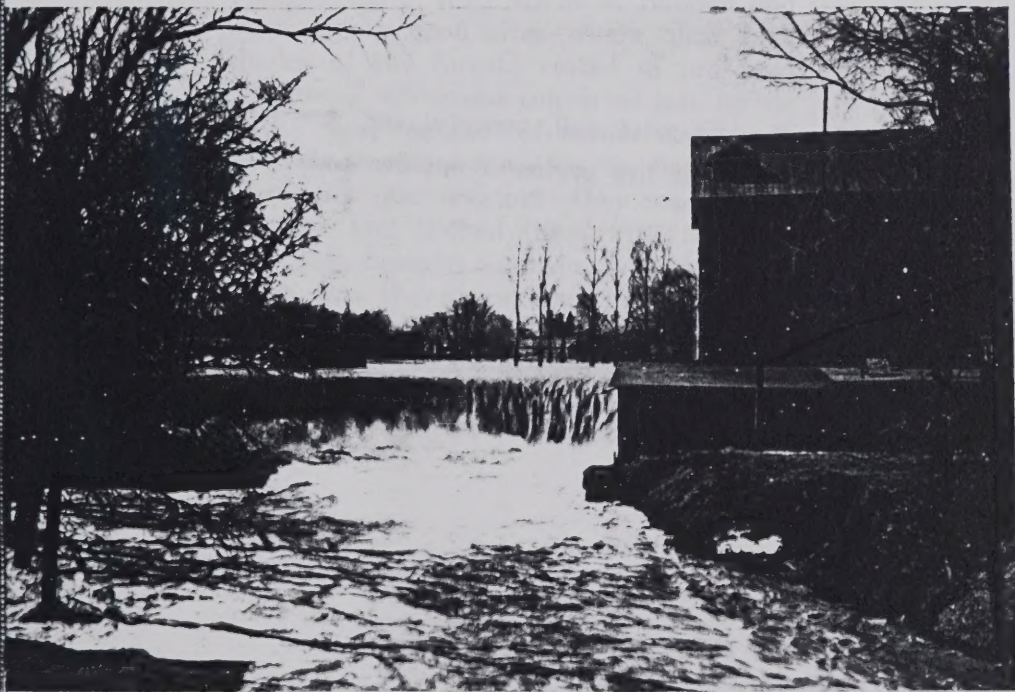








# Honeoye Falls, N. Y.



## Its Beginning.....

by David K. Maloney

Village Historian

Allen County Public Library  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

"By the old grist mill, peaceful and grey;  
Grinding our life grains tomorrow, today."

7

Photographs by James DeNardo

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## DEDICATION . . . .

### TO THE FOUNDERS

"Villages, cities, institutions of religion and learning are upon sites where once dark shades of the forests rested in profound stillness; a wilderness converted into fertile fields. Your conquest of nature was bloodless, yet glorious; those on the battlefields destroyers, you creators; they made fields desolate, you clothed them with full fruition; they brought mourning, you rejoicing. Yours was the moral courage, endurance and perseverance to face dangers and difficulties until they became familiar associates."

—O. Hunt, 1852

Allen County Public Library  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

To my father, David J. Maloney  
..... without whose untiring efforts in  
study and research this compilation would  
have been impossible.

dkm—

**I**N the founding and growth of any community one finds that the final accomplishment was the result of real pioneer American effort and sacrifice which made our nation rich, great and powerful.

Honeoye Falls, a village in the Town of Mendon, New York, is approximately seventeen miles southeast of the City of Rochester, New York. This village is a typical example of the results of vision on the part of simple and stalwart men and women, their enterprise, necessities and love of adventure which lured them toward uncharted fields of endeavor and daring.

As one gazes along the busy Main Street of Honeoye Falls today with its various shops and other places of business it is difficult to visualize that this entire area was once a wilderness.

Although factual history is lacking in many instances, what has been recorded tells of the first approach to the native Indians by missionaries. These men of the cloth were soon followed by the pioneers, and later clergy of all denominations. Missionaries, pioneers and clergy each bore the burden of extending American civilization and the Christian faiths. No greater tribute could be acknowledged today than that of the beautiful sight of church edifices that dot this land, the majesty of their make up helping to inspire their people toward the paths of righteousness.

The early pioneers believed that there is a guiding principle, though at times dormant, which surrounds the world in every worthy effort. Just as Columbus in his little pinnace started from the eastern shore of Europe to seek the Land of Promise, so these early pioneers sought and conquered the deep forests and racing streams to give character to their beloved country. They blazed the trail and proved to the world that the rule of the people finds its origin as exemplified in the founding of a hamlet hewn from the forests of America.

These early men and women believed in the fundamentals: sustenance for the body, respect for law and order, and a faith in a Divine Providence and eternal life. Much of this pioneering spirit remains - the general store, the Village Hall, the old mill sites and the solemnity and grace of the peaceful cemeteries. All simple, yet impelling expressions of their early hopes and aspirations.

One must remember that the American small town is the base upon which our great country was built. It was Concord and Lexington and other small rural sections of New England that founded our nation; a democracy started from the bottom, from the people, rather than totalitarianism and tyranny which is forced down upon the people who are then disfranchised and enslaved by the few through



fear of liquidation.

The small town is in reality the bulwark of a nation. These pioneers who brought birth to our village and its area did not realize that, compared to older civilizations of the ages, Democracy was in its infancy; and evolution slow in growth as "a thousand years in the sight of the Lord are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

One must examine the distant past to find a beginning for the development of this wilderness. Jacques Cartier, in 1535, discovered and named the St. Lawrence River. Jamestown was founded in 1607, the settlement of Quebec in 1608. In 1609 Henry Hudson discovered and named the Hudson River, sailed on it up to Albany, and in 1620 the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. It was one hundred and sixteen years after Columbus discovered America before there was an advance by the white man into the State of New York.

Missionaries and traders followed the water courses of Canada to establish a post at Fort Huron. From that distant point came the first of the white race to trod upon the soil of Western New York.

Following the War of 1812 there was a disheartening depression. The men of New England, who were the pioneers, had just passed through that devastating war. With the depression came the impelling necessity to make new homes by clearing and improving the wilderness that held promise of a new start for their families and their neighbors.

The original inhabitants of Honeoye Falls were the Seneca Indians, a tribe of North American aborigines of Iroquois stock. They called themselves "Tshoti-non-da-waga" meaning "people of the mountains." Their range was in Western New York between Seneca Lake and the Genesee River. They were one of the "Six Nations League" of the Iroquois and perhaps the most important tribe.

The Senecas' own name was "Tson-ond-o-waka," "people of the great hill or mountain," probably referring to the lofty eminence south of Canandaigua Lake. As a member of the League the Senecas were called "Honen-nin-ho-honte," signifying "they are fixed to a door or door flap." They were at first adverse to joining the League, but finally accepted by having the honor of the official doorkeeper and executioners bestowed upon them.

It is recorded that, while the most populous of all the tribes, the Senecas were but a few thousand in numbers and established few villages. There was only one in what is now Monroe County and that which was second in size was called Totiakton located in the area identified today as Rochester Junction. It is said that the Village of Totiakton had many houses of the community type called "long houses,"

some 50 x 100 feet long and 16 feet high. They were one story in height and made of upright poles with others fastened transversely by withes, the entire structure of sides and roof being covered with bark held by thongs or splints.

These dwellings contained many families, each occupying the equivalent of one modern room regardless of the number of persons in the family. Between the rows of rooms, fires for warmth and cooking were kept burning, the smoke leaving by holes in the overhead covering. It might have been entirely possible to count the number of families by the number of smoke trails coming from each "long house."

In 1677 Wentworth Greenhalge, the explorer, estimated that the population of Totiakton was a little over 1,000, so one sees that Honeoye Falls began as an Indian village. What became of the Indians is well established in the history of our country. By purchase, treaty and strong-armed persuasion, in many instances none too gentle, they were driven further and further westward until, as history tells us, their existence in the east is but a dim and distant memory.

Honeoye Falls has had various names: Totiakton, the Indian Village; Norton's Mills; West Mendon; West Mendon Junction and, finally, its present title. It was natural that the permanent name should be of Indian origin.

After extensive research one can now safely state that the word Honeoye is from the Iroquois, "hay-e-a-yeh," meaning a "finger lying," or "where the finger lies" or "his finger, it lies here." The origin of the word Honeoye stems from the legend of the Seneca who, being bitten on the finger by a rattlesnake, promptly amputated the finger with a tomahawk. Still another legend has it that two Indians were fighting in bitter anger and one, hiding momentarily behind a tree, placed his hand around a young sapling as he hid from his adversary. His opponent threw a knife, or tomahawk, which hit the tree and severed the little finger of his foe. The injured warrior won the battle and in the telling of his exploits at tribal meetings referred to this area as the place where "the little finger lies on the ground."

A slight deviation from the above explanation comes from officials at the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York City. From the publication, "Aboriginal Place Names of New York" by William M. Beauchamp, we find the following:

"Regarding the word Honeoye, Morgan suggests the spelling "Ha-Ne-A-Yah" and that Marshall uses "Hah-Nyah-Yah." The meanings are exactly the same as described in a preceding paragraph.

After the Revolutionary War, New York ceded to the general government all its claims to lands west of Lake Ontario. Four years

later Massachusetts made a similar cession. These political moves left what is now known as Western New York of disputed ownership, claimed by New York and Massachusetts individually. Finally, in 1789, a compromise was effected giving New York the right: the government, sovereignty and jurisdiction of all lands claimed by it. Massachusetts was given the right of preemption (practically the ownership) of all the lands between the north and south line running from the boundary of Pennsylvania and passing by the western edge of Seneca Lake; and a north and south line one mile east of the Niagara River. The tract was of 2,500,000 acres and was sold by Massachusetts to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham.

The Phelps and Gorham Purchase marked the beginning of development of Western New York. Nathaniel Gorham, who lived in Charlestown, Massachusetts, never became a resident of the district. Oliver Phelps, who came from Connecticut in 1788, was empowered to make contract with the Indians for that territory which is now Monroe County. It was then inhabited by the Seneca Tribe. Township 11, Range 5, comprised what is now the Town of Mendon, the western half of which is the present Village of Honeoye Falls.

In 1788 the large tract of two-and-a-half million acres was released to Phelps and Gorham by the Indians upon payment of \$5,000 and an annuity of \$500. It was more or less of a speculative venture so that, as a result, early settlers of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey, when they visualized its possibilities, were attracted and made effort to seek profit by purchase.

Phelps and Gorham sold their lands to Sir William Pultney and his associates. The entry of sale shows Messrs. Franklin and Boughton as the buyers. With subdivisions being offered we find among the secondary proprietors Catlin and Ferris, Waddington and Pepoon, Jonathan Hill, Ebenezar Barnard and Jeremiah Wadsworth.

Captain Jonathan Ball was the purchaser of what became known as the "Ball Farm." Remaining here but a short time he transferred his holdings to Augustus and Peter B. Porter and Zebulon Norton and returned to Connecticut.

In 1789 Zebulon Norton and Enos Boughton came to this area from Connecticut. They purchased a large section of land and sold subdivisions. Zebulon Norton was a millwright and miller. It was after he examined various locations that he finally settled in what is now Honeoye Falls. He brought with him his wife, Naomi, his son, Ezra, his household goods and miller's equipment. He was the son of John and Mary Norton and was born in 1740. He married Naomi Booth on November 7, 1765, and he died in 1814.

Zebulon Norton, having migrated from Connecticut with the



Boughtons and settled in Otsego County about 1790, bought a large tract of land in Victor, but desiring to erect a mill, came to this area in 1791 and purchased one thousand eight hundred and twenty acres. Early in the spring of 1791 he built a log cabin, the exterior covered with bark, and set to work on the construction of a grist mill. He soon changed his residence from the cabin to a block house near his mill which was later donated for educational and religious purposes.

It was in 1792 that Zebulon Norton completed his mill and the place became known as Norton's Mills. Fire seemed to be an early menace to these hardy pioneers. The first mill lasted but four years and was then consumed by flames. A larger mill was later built and operated by his son, Ezra, and in 1824 was further enlarged by Lyman Norton, a grandson of Zebulon Norton.

One of the outstanding personalities in the early years of Honeoye Falls was Denton G. Shuart, the second son of Abraham Shuart. He was born in the Town of Plattskill, Ulster County, New York, on February 9, 1805. In 1807 he moved with his parents to Mendon. Some years later he located at Shuart's Corners about one mile northwest from the present Village of Honeoye Falls. Here he resided with his father, working on the farm, attending and teaching school until the spring of 1825. He returned to his native town and began the study of law in the office of John Cole, Esquire, and remained in that office until 1829. He then continued his studies in New York City until 1832 when he was admitted to the Bar. Later that same year he returned to West Mendon (Honeoye Falls) to practice his profession. In the course of many years he became one of the senior members of the Bar in Monroe County. In a copy of the Honeoye Falls Standard, 1839, we find his professional card and the location of his office. In 1837 he married Elizabeth Barrett, daughter of Captain Stephen Barrett of Honeoye Falls. They had four sons, one early deceased. The remaining three to reach adulthood were William Herbert, Clarence A., and J. Irving Shuart.

In October of 1866 Denton Shuart purchased the farm formerly owned by his father-in-law, Captain Stephen Barrett, later selling this home to reside with his son, Clarence, in a newly-built structure in the village.

Clarence Shuart was admitted to the Bar in New York City and returned to Honeoye Falls to practice law in the office his father had occupied for fifty years. Clarence married Frances Park. The father resided with this couple until his death in 1892. Thus passed one of Honeoye Falls' outstanding and public-minded citizens who was at one time elected Surrogate of Monroe County for a term of four years.

The last remaining son, J. Irving Shuart, continued the active fam-

ily interest in civic affairs and in his latter years resided in the City of Rochester.

The house that the Shuarts built in the village later became the residence of the late Dwight H. Allen, Dentist, and since his death is now occupied by his widow, Mrs. Gertrude Allen, and their son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. R. Stainton Allen.

Another pioneer citizen of Honeoye Falls, mentioned previously, was Captain Stephen Barrett. His father, Stephen Barrett, Sr., originally lived in Winchendon, Massachusetts, and had a farm there. When the public lands in New York State were being offered for sale in 1789 he treked all the way to Fort Schuyler (now Utica, New York) with a sled drawn by a team of oxen, bringing with him his mother, his wife and two young daughters. After locating for a time in Paris, New York, he went on to Sangerfield in Oneida County and bought a farm where Stephen II was born. He also had four daughters and, in 1852, he boarded a packet with his family and traveled by canal to reach West Mendon. There he purchased from a man named John Scramlin a tract of about 150 acres which followed along a line of Honeoye Creek pretty much from Norton's Mills to Smithtown (North Bloomfield).

Captain Barrett and his family first resided in a log cabin situated on land now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Niels G. Madsen on Ontario Street where the rear of the property faces on the creek proper, and just above the falls. Afterwards he bought the house which was occupied until recently by the late Dr. E. G. Thompson on Ontario Street. Having been an officer in the militia he was known throughout his lifetime by the title Captain. He was one of the first Presidents of the Village Board after the village was incorporated in 1838. Being a thrifty farmer, Captain Barrett lived on his farm until his death in 1866, at which time his son-in-law, Denton G. Shuart, the first Surrogate of Monroe County by election, took over the property. In 1883 Denton Shuart sold his property to Benjamin Peer, another prominent Honeoye Falls native. With the passing years it is difficult to visualize any expanse of farm land in this location as many homes now occupy that section of the village. It is interesting to note that Captain Stephen Barrett also sold to the New York Central Railroad the land it required to build a right of way.

The west half of the Town of Mendon was divided into tracts bearing the names of the original owners. There was the Ferris Tract to the northwest and the others were situated to the southwest. The Ball Tract became the property of Andrew Young and was identified as being lands outside the village. The Porter Tract was purchased by George Babcock, an early magistrate, who died in 1828. Near him

resided an early settler named Stephen Burton.

Migration continued through these years and among the industrious pioneers were Luther Gates who arrived in the year 1802; Abner Bond of New Jersey, who came in 1806; Thomas Sanford, Samuel Jeromes, W. F. Waite, Edward James, Gideon Ball, all outstanding citizens who came to this area at about the same era.

Zebulon, Robert, Ezra and Henry Townsend were early settlers on "Abraham's Plains," a name derived from the fact that a Negro gentleman, Abraham Wright, had resided on that property about 1803. John Moore of New Jersey located near what was identified as Bull's saw mill, a landmark known today as Bull's Saw Mill Road.

In the immediate vicinity of the Village of Honeoye Falls and north of Harry Allen Park where stood the old brick schoolhouse was a large log building raised for school purposes. It stood on the corner north of the Falls, and the schoolmaster was one Welcome Garfield.

Monroe County was established by law on February 23, 1821 (Chapter 57 of the Laws of the State of New York, 1821). That law provided that the Towns of Gates, Parma, Ogden, Clarkson, Brighton, Penfield, Perrinton, Pittsford, Mendon, Henrietta, a part of Rush and a portion of Caledonia were to be identified as Monroe County. Mendon was formed on May 26, 1812 as a town in Ontario County, but was later added to Monroe County in 1821. The first Mendon town meeting was held in April of 1813 in the home of Thomas Ewer.

History gives us the privilege of estimating the growth of a community by noting the various eras of its development. The early progress of Honeoye Falls was dependent upon artisans to provide the necessities for its people. Many hamlets in this nation were established by offering shares in the common land, thus the needed workers and shop keepers came to activate the "business" of a village. Shares of this common land were given to the cooper, the carpenter, the blacksmith and other craftsmen. It is interesting to note that those shares were often passed on from generation to generation.

In 1810 Joseph Dixon opened the first general store in Honeoye Falls on the site now occupied by the United States Post Office Building. He carried a limited stock of molasses, some rum, snuff, tobacco and only a small amount of sugar. In 1813 the Dixons built a distillery and operated this business for several years until the structure was destroyed by fire.

In Norton's Mills there was a carpenter; a Dr. Knickerbocker, physician and surgeon, and Welcome Garfield, the first schoolteacher.

A brick school house was erected in 1826. It had two rooms, one for district pupils, the other a select school.

A tavern was built before the War of 1812, and in 1821 a black-



smith started his smithy. There was tanning on a limited scale and a carding machine was installed. This latter apparatus later became a trip hammer. In 1815 a building for the manufacture of woolen goods was erected, but later was changed to the production of cloth dressing. A carding and fulling mill, including general woolen manufacture, was later established. There was an axe factory which was also converted to a woolen mill in short time.

Dr. Harry Allen, whose wife, Lydia, was the daughter of Ezra Norton, came to Norton's Mills in 1821. He found there a grist mill owned by Lyman Norton; a gun shop; a carding machine; a general store; an ashery; two blacksmith shops; a wagon factory; a cooper's shop and a shoe store. There was also a small church belonging to the Christians and used by them until 1840.

Dr. Harry Allen was a public-minded citizen and a great benefactor of the village. He donated the land for the Presbyterian Church which was founded in 1831.

Born in Lebanon, New Hampshire, Dr. Harry Allen was a graduate of Dartmouth College. After settling in this village to take up the practice of general medicine he was married to Lydia Norton, daughter of Ezra, and granddaughter of our founder, Zebulon Norton.

With the growth in population of our community through those early years and the demand for more adequate school facilities, Dr. Allen donated to the village one acre of land known as the "Commons" (probably in happy memory of the good doctor's matriculation at the New Hampshire institution of learning where Dartmouth Commons is a landmark) which is known today as Harry Allen Park. Dr. Allen's gift was adjacent to a small tract, four rods square, owned by the school district. These combined properties allowed ample room for the erection of a new school building.

In order to lighten the expense of constructing this new school, the town put up the first floor and the village met the costs of completing the second story.

A son of Dr. Harry Allen, Lucius Norton Allen, attended Dartmouth College for two years, but was forced to give up his pursuit of higher education due to ill health. He remained in New Hampshire for a short time before his father brought him home. Regretting the fact that he could not complete his years at Dartmouth, Lucius Allen, in 1841, began an outstanding career as schoolteacher which he continued for nearly a half-century. At one time he was principal of both the Honeoye Falls School and the Monroe Academy where he earned the reputation of being a master in dealing with unruly boys. Besides his professional life as a teacher, Lucius Allen also conducted a large stone quarry.

Until 1822, mail came from Lima, probably by horseback, when the post office at West Mendon was established in 1838. The name of the Federal Office was changed to Honeoye Falls when, in that year, the village was duly incorporated.

Readers may take interest in examining the act of incorporation of the village:

LAWS OF NEW YORK  
Chapter 72  
AN ACT TO INCORPORATE  
THE VILLAGE OF HONEOYE FALLS;  
PASSED MARCH 13, 1838:

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Sec. 1 All that part of the Town of Mendon, in the County of Monroe, bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of Eldrick Smith's farm, on the town and county line running from thence to the southwest corner of land belonging to R. Huntington, in the center of Honeoye Creek; thence down said Creek to the southwest corner of Captain S. Barrett's farm; thence northerly on the east line of said Barrett's farm to the northeast corner of said farm; thence northerly on a direct line to the northeast corner of the farm formerly owned and occupied by Jacob Young, now by Andrew Young; thence westerly along the northerly line of said Young, Jasper Parrish, Henry Allen, and J. B. Dixon's farms; thence southerly on the west and north line of J. B. Dixon and R. A. Lake, and west line of Eldrick Smith's farms, to the place of beginning, shall hereafter be known and distinguished as "the Village of Honeoye Falls," and the free-holders and inhabitants of said village are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of "The Trustees of the Village of Honeoye Falls."

Sec 2 The corporation hereby created shall possess all the powers and privileges, and be subject to all the liabilities and restrictions which are granted to or imposed upon "The Trustees of the Village of Attica," by the act incorporating that village, passed May 2, 1837.

Sec. 3 The officers to be elected under this act shall, within ten days after notice of their election, and before entering upon the duties of their office, take and subscribe the oath prescribed in the sixth article of the Constitution of this state.

(Laws of New York. 61st Session 1838, Chapter 72)

With the Village incorporated on March 13, 1838, a meeting was held on the June 5 following with the following officers elected: Henry P. Culver, Samuel Rand, Harry Allen, Hiram Finch and Matthew Ogden, trustees; John B. Dixon, Samuel P. Sterling and Adam W. Willis,

assessors; Horace Wheeler, clerk and treasurer, and Jotham Bickford, collector.

The report was signed by D. G. Shuart, Justice of the Peace. Later meetings were held in the brick schoolhouse until 1844.

At a meeting of the Board held in Mr. Shuart's office on June 9, 1838, Harry Allen was named president of the village, the first to hold that position.

Other village presidents were Henry Lockwood, 1838-40; Edward Downs, 1840-41; Stephen Barrett, 1841-42; and Richard Ostrander, 1842-44.

Trustees elected in 1844 apparently did not organize as there are no records of their activities.

The next recorded officers as president of the village were Harry Allen, 1865-67; C.R. Hyde, 1867-68; William Burberry, 1868-69; J. F. Kellogg, 1869-73; W. G. Starr, 1873-74; Ezra Sines, 1874-84; Milo Case, 1884-87. Following Mr. Case in various years beyond the latter date were William Rayen Yorks, Seymour Pierce, A. M. Holden, Levi Hill, C. S. Lange, James Heath, James S. Brown and F. P. Jobes.

William E. Despard, an outstanding citizen and civic leader of Honeoye Falls was elected to head the village board in 1927 and continued in that official position for more than a quarter century.

The present officers for the Village of Honeoye Falls who instructed the Village Historian to produce this compilation are:

Basil E. Moore, mayor; Bernard S. Drowne, vice mayor; and Squire J. Kingston, Douglas L. Rath, and William S. Mantegna, members of the Board.

On April 24, 1865, an act was passed by the Legislature to consolidate, and this enactment named several moves relating to the Village of Honeoye Falls for the purpose of enlarging upon the powers of the corporation. A further amendment occurred in April of 1869. Meetings were then held in the rooms of a block owned by J. P. Kaufeld.

Shortly after 1869 the village fathers purchased the old Methodist-Episcopal church structure and moved it to a location now occupied by the Village Hall and fitted the rooms up as permanent administration offices. Later it was destroyed by fire, and again re-built.

Since evidence of many destructive fires is found in the history of Honeoye Falls Village it is, perhaps, appropriate that some facts be put down concerning action by the people to halt such devastation.

Significantly, the Village of Honeoye Falls is known as "The Home of the Iron Man." This title is in reference to the metal figure which was placed on the steeple of the Village Hall more than seventy years ago. What is considered fact concerning this Iron Man will be



put down in these writings later, but first let us try to picture this community in its early years.

Main Street consisted of a dirt road with a few hitching posts outlining the wooden side-walks reserved for pedestrians. Almost all of the shops and homes were of wooden materials and the need for room stoves and fireplaces brought with it the danger of conflagration. There is notation of mills burning, homes and factories razed by fire, and other properties which made up this thriving community.

The only fire prevention known was that offered by volunteers. Entire families rushed to a fire, day or night, and the almost futile attempt of bucket brigades made up of men, women and children to halt the flames devouring a structure was heartbreaking. Leather buckets were available at such times, but the line of men and women handing buckets of water from wells or the creek to the site of a fire could do little to fight down a burning inferno. As discouraging as this result was, the citizens of Honeoye Falls rebuilt their homes and shops as quickly as possible. Still there remained the dread of fire at all times.

Long discussions took place among the men of the community as to the possibility of organizing a volunteer group among the male citizens to alert themselves to the dangers. There was considered the posting of a night watchman, or even a scheduled patrol for the village, and information was welcomed as to the protection adopted in towns and cities far away. After disastrous fires in 1884 and early 1885 aroused the villagers, a definite program was adopted to take the place of the inadequate "bucket brigade."

On February 10, 1885, a special election was held and it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$5500 for the founding of a volunteer fire department. This sum was spent in the purchase of a fire engine after a public and satisfactory demonstration of its efficiency on May 6, 1885. Volunteers met and organized the department and the following companies were designated: The Wilcox Steamer Company (later changed to the Honeoye Falls Steamer Company); the Major Downey Hook and Ladder Company; the Active Hose Company No. 1, and the La Belle Hose Company No. 2 (Protective Hose Company No. 2).

A record for continuous membership in any volunteer fire company in America was credited to Mr. Charles R. Pierce who served actively for more than 65 years. Captain Pierce's 80th birthday was fittingly celebrated by the department sounding the alarm, calling out the men and apparatus. Unknown to Captain Pierce, it was a false alarm, but he responded promptly. Taking his accustomed place in the modern squad car used in all emergencies, he was driven along the village streets in a futile search for a conflagration, with none of his

companions being able to tell him of the location of the "fire."

Upon the return of the squad car to the firehouse, Captain Pierce discovered the full roster of firemen, with many villagers, assembled in front of the firehouse. Congratulations were extended, gifts were presented to "Cap" Pierce and his wife, and a tender gesture of love and affection was extended to honor a fine and beloved citizen.

Another veteran Honeoye Falls fireman who should be credited with long years of service is Frank W. Grace, still on the active roster. "Cy" Grace joined the department in 1907, served as secretary-treasurer for 28 years and chief of the department for another 23 years before retiring from that post. Complete modernization of the department and erection of a new firehouse took place during Chief Grace's term of office.

As to the Iron Fireman being identified with the Village of Honeoye Falls, this too is a story that should be recorded. The visitor to our fair community is startled to find the figure of a fireman placed on the steeple of the Village Hall. This ornament stands approximately five feet high and depicts a fireman of yesteryear, replete in helmet, red shirt, blue trousers and holding to his lips the ancient "fireman's horn" that was popular in early days, both as a sounding signal and a decorative instrument carried in firemen's parades in which were placed bouquets of flowers.

The Iron Man was originally the property of the fire department at St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada. The original purpose of the Iron Man was its use as a carrying piece in firemen's parades when dozens of area companies held annual conventions. Much was made of this figure and it became the practice of other fire departments to "steal" the Iron Man for possession until the next year's convention—usually by the department from the community in which the next year's firemen's muster was to be held. In those early years the Iron Man was of light material and easily carried by an individual in the line of march.

Although fact is missing in this telling, the Iron Man came into the possession of a fire company in Rochester, New York (possibly the Protectives) and another community rumored to have gained possession of this figure were the volunteers in Albion, New York.

Later, by agreement or otherwise, the figure came to Avon, New York, where the firemen of that company decided to reinforce the figure and place it on display atop their fire hall. The Honeoye Falls firemen looked with covetous eyes at this cherished trophy and decided to take action. The remainder is fact and history, told to this author by three members of the Honeoye Falls department, Captain Charles R. Pierce, Harry Pillsbury and William Desmann, all three of

whom took part in the following escapade.

Not to be outdone by Caesar and his cohorts, the Honeoye Falls raiders planned the attack. Gathering together ropes, saws, files and other tools thought necessary for such an adventure, they boarded themselves into a carriage and a farm wagon for the cold, dark night's ride to Avon. A last minute addition to their equipment was a ladder borrowed from their own fire department headquarters.

Finding the Avon firehouse deserted, they set to work. Much of their pre-planning was being carried out and two of their men had reached the roof of the building when an alarm went out. The Honeoye Falls men got away, but—alas—without their department ladder. The following morning as little as possible was said about the attempted robbery and it was assumed that the plot, having failed, would be given no further consideration.

However, minds were sharp, the Honeoye Falls volunteers were a determined lot, and the following night, October 29, 1891, another trip to Avon was made in the shadows of night. Encouraging news had come from Avon that the firefighters of that community would be celebrating a birthday party in the Livingston House and it was possible that their guard would be down.

Between 1:30 and 2:00 A.M. the Honeoye Falls raiders crept stealthily along the Avon fire property and set up their equipment. Guards were placed at strategic spots facing Main Street to warn the workers of any passersby. Others, working from the ground, handed up climbing rig and tools for the use of those reaching the rooftop. Still other men stood in the dark alley holding strings attached to the climbers' elbows to signal a warning if the enemy approached. Those reaching the iron figure on the fire house roof were armed with saws to remove the Iron Man from his perch.

The upright bar holding the Iron Fireman was of cast steel, inches in thickness, and most difficult to saw. With each slight pull on the cord attached to their arms the work was halted. Twice the signal was given, once when two railroad men stopped on Main Street to bid each other good night, and again when a guest in a nearby hotel opened the window of his room to gaze out into the cold night air. Apparently not one of these individuals noticed anything unusual going on in their quiet, peaceful little town.

When the work of sawing was finally completed, and the tenseness of the situation was at its peak, the men who had been doing the actual cutting forgot to rope the steel figure with the result, the Iron Man went rattling down the roof side and crashed with a deafening thud in an alley below. Quickly the Honeoye Falls marauders gathered together their tools and the Iron Man, rushed to their wagon and car-



riage and were gone from Avon town before the community was aware of its loss.

At break of dawn in Honeoye Falls the crusaders, still gloating over their success, awakened the people of our village with their noisy demonstration as they drove into the village proper. After assuring themselves that the Iron Man was secure by chaining the figure to a counter in Pride's Hardware Store, and assigning two stalwarts as guards, they assembled at the bar in the Wilcox House to accept the plaudits of all who cared to offer congratulations.

Within a short time the figure was given over to a local gunsmith, Mike Tucker, for reconstruction. Inspired by the selection of a site for the Iron Man by the Avon Company, the Honeoye Falls volunteers decided that the figure should adorn their Village Hall steeple as a permanent fixture. Mr. Tucker was instructed to re-build the Iron Man, attach a rod of Swedish steel through its center, and secure the entire body to withstand the weather of both winter snows and summer rains. This was done immediately and the Iron Man was erected on his high post in the fall of 1891.

Several attempts have been made to remove this figure through the years, but it remains today, not only a tribute to the daring and fortitude of those who captured it, but in dedication to the thousands of volunteer firemen of the nation who give so untiringly of their time and effort in the protection of life and property from fire.

In referring to the Wilcox House, it should be noted that records show an earlier tavern being built by Abraham Burch before the War of 1812. Samuel Ladd built a second one, and the Wilcox House was erected in 1827 by Daniel Gibson. This latter building is now the property of Union Star Lodge No. 320, F. & A. M., an organization which has had untold influence in the development of Honeoye Falls.

Masonry was introduced to Honeoye Falls in 1825 when Union Lodge No. 26 (now 45) was removed from Lima to West Mendon and held its sessions in the old Lines Tavern on the corner of East and Ontario Streets until January of 1831 when it was again returned to Lima.

Union Star Lodge No. 320 was chartered on June 12, 1852, and the Lodge came into the present Masonic Temple building on November 17, 1920. The Union Star Temple Association purchased the property then owned and operated by Ilez Wilcox as a hotel.

Unfortunately a fire destroyed the early records of this fine organization which makes it impossible to offer a complete history.

Before returning to early history and government of the Village of Honeoye Falls as more information reveals itself through research let us dwell for a time on pertinent facts already available.

The history of churches in Honeoye Falls shows that they have been, and are at the present, a vital force in the progress and well being of the community. While missionaries went among the Indians even earlier than the pioneers, yet, soon after the establishment of places of worship, these churches became an integral part of the development of those areas where civilization chose to make its home.

Earlier reference was made to the Christian Church in Honeoye Falls. In January of 1817 a Rev. Joseph Badger, a traveler from New Hampshire, preached in Henrietta and at Norton's Mills. An invitation was extended for him to preach again during the summer to a congregation that met in the local school house. These invitations continued twice a month and in October of that year Rev. Badger remained to continue his work on a permanent basis. It was on November 24, 1817, that a church organization meeting was held at which time fifteen persons were baptised. Abner Bond was elected as deacon, and a meeting house was raised in 1819. The building was not completed until 1826. A. O. Garrett became the preacher in 1825, followed by Ephraim Shackley of Massachusetts in 1826. A stone edifice was completed in January of 1840 at a cost of four thousand dollars.

"The Church Among the Trees" identifies St. John's Episcopal Church at the foot of Episcopal Avenue. St. John's was incorporated on June 29, 1840, Nathaniel F. Bruce, rector, the name chosen being "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of St. John's Church in the Village of Honeoye Falls as name by which society to be known in Law." Henry P. Culver and Samuel Rand were among the first officers and were also members of the first village board following the incorporation of the village in 1838.

Services were first held in the brick schoolhouse where a few families gathered. These services were conducted by a traveling minister, probably from Canandaigua, in 1815, and it is said that he journeyed by foot and horseback along Indian trails to conduct services in other settlements in western and eastern New York.

Among the dedicated workers in the establishment of St. John's were Elijah S. Rust and Horace Wheeler, church wardens; Henry P. Culver, Samuel Rand, Edward D. Lacey, George Dorr, Robert W. Rand, Ben Adsit, Charles Paulk and Herkimer B. Miner, vestrymen.

At a meeting of the church officials on April 13, 1841, it was decided to erect a church building and the present structure was built between 1841 and 1842. The following paragraphs are taken from the History of Monroe County, 1869:

"The number of communicants is 50. The church building is one of the finest finished structures in the interior seen in the State." Mrs. Sarah Rand donated over three thousand dollars to the church and,

at an expense of two thousand dollars purchased a house for use as a rectory.

It should be of interest to readers and historians to know that the houses on Episcopal Avenue originally faced on Monroe Street and the present front of each residence was, at that time, the rear of those homes standing.

Upon the one hundredth anniversary of the Consecration of Saint John's on April 26, 1942, the Reverend Charles P. Persell, Jr., at the conclusion of his address said:

"If there is one final word I would leave with you, it is the words on the Altar of this Church, taken from St. John's Gospel—'Love one another.' This means that we are to respect one another as we wish to be trusted and respected; not personal, petty jealousies, or misunderstandings to embitter us and jeopardize the Master's work. Love one another."

Reverend Donald C. Ellwood, until his move to Connecticut in 1950, served St. John's for ten years, one of the longest periods of service in the history of the church.

The Presbyterian Church in Honeoye Falls was organized on March 1, 1831, with six members, all of whom brought letters from other churches. They were: Charles Foot, Simeon Johnson, Mores Rowell, Mrs. Louisa W. Sill, A. Dixon and Marcia M. Blaisdell. Actually the first meetings of the Society were held under the direction of Rev. George G. Sill of the Board of Missions in 1828, just thirty-seven years after the first settlement in Honeoye Falls. Within a month seventeen more names were added to the roll, five by letters and and twelve by confession of Faith. A total of forty-seven were received into the fellowship that year. The church has enjoyed a steady growth all through its history and was never embarrassed by financial circumstances.

The present Presbyterian Church edifice was built in 1841 and dedicated January 27, 1842. It has the distinction of being one of the finest Colonial style structures in Western New York. Its fine front, with four massive pillars supporting a substantial gable and well proportioned tower, all painted white, give it a stately and churchly appearance. It does honor to its designer, Martin R. Pierce, who was a resident of the village and a noted builder of his day.

An interesting feature of the structure is the Sunday School room attached to the rear of the main building, 24 x 40. It was the first meeting house erected by a congregation in 1831. Later it was sold to the Baptists and used by them as a house of worship. Finally it was repurchased by the Presbyterians and added to the main church as it stands today. Only a few years ago a complete renovation was



done to this village church and a new design was made to allow for additional classrooms and a modern kitchen. The total structure now represents all of the buildings erected by the congregation since its organization.

Much of the growth of the Honeoye Falls Methodist Church must be credited to the Methodist Circuit Riders. These men, hardy and brave, full of faith and desire to serve, underwent all the hardships of pioneer life. They penetrated the sparsely settled wilderness of Western New York soon after the settlers came to Norton's Mills in 1791. In Zebulon Norton's log cabin near the present location of the Caves' Lumber Company the Circuit Riders were welcomed to hold meetings and in 1787 they organized the first Methodist Class.

For many years these preachers made their rounds, covering so large a territory that they could come back not oftener than once in two weeks. In a few years a frame building for religious and school purposes was built near the present Drowne apartment house (the Holden residence) on West Main Street and Railroad Avenue. (In 1962 Railroad Avenue was officially given back its original title, Norton Street.) Through the presentation of these services, camp meetings and revivals, scores were added to the Methodist membership in Honeoye Falls.

In 1820 these parishioners incorporated as "The First Methodist-Episcopal Chapel Society in Mendon" and a white wooden building was erected on the C. C. Davidson lot and dedicated in 1821 on the present church site. Gradually the Riders circuits were shortened and in 1827 a resident pastor was assigned.

Subscriptions circulated to provide financing for this edifice brought forth a variety of articles pledged in lieu of cash money. They included grain, lumber, livestock and eleven male members signed for whiskey. The opening exercises were conducted by John H. Fox.

Repairs and improvements completed in 1846 were acknowledged at a service conducted by John Dennis. Additional improvements were instituted in 1864 with commemorative exercises again being conducted by Rev. John Dennis, at that time an agent of the Genesee College.

In May of 1837 the building was moved a short distance and a bell was purchased. This instrument became useless after a few months and a second bell was obtained. In 1846 the galleries inside the church proper were removed, a basement was installed beneath the building, and an addition of fourteen feet was added to the main structure.

Four different times the Methodist Church was renovated, re-

paired or enlarged to accommodate the growing congregation until, in 1874, the present brick building on the corner of East and Church Streets was completed. The old church building was moved down to the present site of the Village Hall for public use as a community center. This was destroyed in a disastrous fire in 1885. In 1913 the rear part of the church building was rebuilt to provide more adequate school rooms and during 1952-53 many more thousands of dollars were spent in providing a large basement and kitchen which has been in constant use since that time.

The special significance of the church has been well expressed: "Ours is a heritage of sincere God-fearing Christian believers—a real inspiration to all who pause to learn about them and get a glimpse of their striving for God's Kingdom."

History records the presence of Jesuit missionaries in the Western New York area long before 1640. In 1670 the Jesuits settled at Totiakton, the largest of the Seneca towns, where Father Pierre Raffeix was named to head a mission called La Conception. They suffered untold misery and even death at the hands of the Indians and for years there was much mystery as to lead disks found among grave relics by archeologists working in Indian cemeteries. These curious objects were the size of a half dollar with a hole in the center and appeared to carry lettering. Today we know them to be seals from official papers sent to these mission priests by their superiors. Other items found were religious articles such as rosaries and crucifixes bearing symbols of the Catholic Church.

For many years there was little information known concerning the establishment of St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church in Honeoye Falls, New York. Much of this lack of records was due to the fact that the church was originally under the jurisdiction of the Buffalo Diocese.

The first Catholic Mass was celebrated in Honeoye Falls in an old building owned by Patrick Buggy. Later on a Mass was held in the home of a Mrs. Claffey. These celebrations took place around 1850.

St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church on Main Street was erected in 1870 at a cost of four thousand dollars with the Rev. Father W. Gregg as pastor. He was succeeded by Father Mulherrin who was later transferred to Lima. It should be remembered that St. Paul of the Cross Church was under the direction of the Diocese of Buffalo until 1870 when jurisdiction was taken over by the Rochester Diocese under Bishop McQuaid. Father Remill became pastor following Father Mulherrin's departure, and 1877 Rev. Evans was made pastor in serving fifty-five families in the Honeoye Falls area. Prior to the construction of the Catholic Church on Main Street the Catholics at-

tended Mass whenever it was possible at a service held in a small building which they rented from a man named Burt. This crude edifice was called "Burt's Chapel." At that time the nearest Catholic service was held in Lima, and it is said that Catholics in the farming area north of the village often walked fifteen miles to Rochester to attend Mass there.

For nearly three-quarters of a century the 70-year-old St. Paul's Catholic Church was a landmark on Main Street in this village. In 1938 the trustees voted to sell the property to the United States Government for a new postoffice site. On January 19, 1939, a vote of the trustees was approved by the Most Reverend James E. Kearney, Archbishop of the Rochester Diocese. Again, on November 15, 1939, a vote of the trustees was approved providing for the purchase of a new site for St. Paul's on the corner of Monroe and Locust Streets, just one block from the four corners of the village.

Another church in Honeoye Falls, long since gone, was called the Evangelical Reformed Church. It is known that this building stood on Maplewood Street, just north of Locust Street. It was organized in the home of J. P. Kaufeld on March 26, 1862, with Rev. Louis Herman as pastor. Members included Louis Lerch, Philip Nau, Conrad Lerch, John Hoffman, John Semmel and Otto Bernhardt. Later pastors were Rev. M. Lehr, 1862-1865, and Rev. John Schaef, 1866-1867. It was under the latter's pastorate that a church building was erected. A Rev. Fisher was appointed in 1868 and he died, to be followed by a Rev. Hermann who finished Rev. Fisher's term of office.

When this Society numbered thirty members they united with the Reformed Society in 1865, a group consisting of the following citizens: S. Lunz, Christian Nau, George Kaufeld, Conrad Haeg, Peter Semmel and Henry Haeg. The aforementioned frame church building was erected at a cost of eight hundred and fifty dollars. By 1877 the original group numbered twelve, and the Reformed Society forty. They occupied the church on alternate Sundays.

One of the most historic and outstanding landmarks in the Village of Honeoye Falls is the huge stone mill on Main Street standing on the bank of Honeoye Creek directly above the falls.

George Washington was President when, in 1791, Zebulon Norton bought 1,820 acres and built a flour mill. He was attracted to this particular spot because of the adequate water power and the fertile countryside where it was possible to foresee the production of good grain crops. Production was so abundant with the clearing of the lands and forests that it was necessary to enlarge the Norton milling facilities in order to properly handle the grinding of grain offered.

Norton's Mills was the name adopted and three mills in succession



were built. Three generations of Nortons ran these mills; Ezra, the son of Zebulon, died in 1812 and the father passed away in 1814. A grandson, Lyman Norton, successfully operated the mill for a number of years until he sold out to a man named Mr. Strong, and moved from Honeoye Falls to Aurora, Illinois.

Strong was succeeded by two businessmen, Collins and Wilmarth, who, in turn, sold the property to a Colonel Henry P. Culver. He built the stone mill in 1827. Honeoye Creek was the main source of power for the mill for nearly a century when the waters of Honeoye Creek ran freely as nature intended.

Hiram Finch became the mill owner in 1829 and he built the lower stone mill. He sold the property to William Clark and D. Y. Smith, later Hiram Smith taking possession. Hiram Smith's son, George, operated the business until 1888 when William Hamilton, a milling expert and financier, purchased the entire business.

William Hamilton was born in Caledonia and he died in 1912. He was known in the business world as an active supporter in reducing the rate of interest on mortgages to five per cent. His son, William V. Hamilton, a graduate of Cornell University, became the owner the year of his father's passing and supervised the business until 1922 when it was incorporated as the William Hamilton & Son, Inc., firm. Mr. Hamilton was a prominent banker, grain merchant and miller. He was president of the State Bank of Honeoye Falls when, in 1933, Mr. Hamilton was killed in an automobile accident.

During the more than a century of flour grinding by this old mill, its products helped to sustain many of the nation's notables with the staff of life. Among them was Brigham Young, who later came to prominence as a leader in the Mormon faith in Utah. Brigham Young resided in the Town of Mendon where he operated a brick kiln and chair factory near Boughton Hill Road. He was a customer of a general store which sold flour from the Honeoye Falls mill and whose order books have been preserved. Entries in this ledger disclose that Brigham Young's tastes were the same as the pioneer men of that era. He purchased tobacco and wine along with other supplies of staple foodstuffs. A number of residents from this village followed Brigham Young to Utah and became affiliated with the Mormon Church. The early flour mills established by the Mormon Colony in Utah followed the technique and principles they had learned here.

During the 150-odd years that the stone mill has stood on the main street of Honeoye Falls there have been but few changes made in the structural part of the building, and those were made in shifting about the old machinery to make room for more modern equipment. There was also the change-over from water power to electricity.

The building is of great interest architecturally. The stone foundation walls at the base are three feet in thickness and give every indication of being able to stand for another century or more. The old timbers, some almost as thick as a man's body, have withstood the ravages of time.

Mention should also be made of the Edward F. Dibble Seed Company, a firm founded by Mr. Dibble in 1891. It has had a notable career through the years, based upon the motto of its founder, "Farm seeds, and farm seeds only; one grade, and that the best obtainable at the lowest price consistent with the highest possible quality." Succeeding years of success have resulted from adherence to those principles under the present ownership of Harwood Martin, a leader in Honeoye Falls whose interests have brought untold progress to civic promotion, Scouting and the Honeoye Falls Fire Department, to name but a few.

As one delves into the early days of our country it becomes evident that every undertaking involved risk, and many times failure. No better example of that struggle and progress is shown than that of the newspaper profession in Honeoye Falls. From the very beginning there was a conscientious effort to inform the people through the printed page. There was always the constant demand for information, local or distant, concerning loved ones, neighbors and situations of national importance.

It is amusing to note that such purpose was typical of the first American newspaper, published in Boston, Massachusetts, by Benjamin Harris in September of 1690. He was an original editor who stated editorially that there were many false rumors being circulated in the Town of Boston which were constantly doing a great deal of harm. He, therefore, requested that his readers furnish his office with the names of these prevaricators as it was his intention to publish "a list of liars." Only one issue was published. Historians of Journalism, however, give credit for the first newspaper to John Campbell, a Scotsman, who was postmaster at Boston. He issued the first number of the Boston News Letter on April 24, 1704.

In 1837 the first newspaper was published in Honeoye Falls. In the light of present knowledge there was honest simplicity in a real effort to accomplish something definite with the gathering and distribution of local information. While this publication of 1837 seemed simple, it was an effort which, along with other country newspapers of that decade, laid the groundwork for weekly publication in the grass roots sections of our nation.

Garry A. Hough came to the Village in the year 1837 as a traveling actor with a theatrical troupe and remained to found the first

newspaper, The Honeoye Standard. He manufactured this newspaper in a stone block directly opposite the hotel. A year later he sold out to E. B. Vedder and J. D. Norris. These gentlemen produced a weekly publication with a subscription rate of \$2.00 per year (\$2.50 if paid during the year, \$2.75 if paid any time after a year). It was described "the sheet was spicy and well edited." Lack of trade, means of obtaining news information, and poor business for printers in general made the Honeoye Standard a losing project.

The Honeoye Standard was large four-page sheet carrying six columns. From an examination of this publication one is unable to detect any great quantity of "spice." In fact, the only local item of note was the dissolution of partnership between Vedder & Norris, the publishers. Mr. Vedder became the sole editor and publisher at that time.

It is possible that local matters in the village were already too well known to be worthy of comment in the printed page.

In examining still another copy of the Honeoye Standard of August, 1839, we find it done in extremely fine print. The first page is of interest as one full column advertises "Dr. Evans' Pills." The second full length column is a poem, "The Seventh Plague of Egypt," by Rev. George Croly, and under the title, "Miscellany," there is a three-column article by one who signed himself "Approximator." It is a noteworthy dissertation on languages, "Education and Casualities" (a rather strange combination!); "Apparent Differences of Views"; "A Diversity of Beliefs"; "On the Criterion of Knowledges"; "The Only Cause of Belief and Knowledge is Evidence"; "No Power to Believe Without Evidence"; "No Man Can Deny His Belief or Faith"; "Belief Not a Virtue, nor Disbelief a Crime"; "Different Degrees of Impressions by Evidence"; "On the Word, Will and Law of God"; "Man Not Always Bound to Act Under Sense of Duty," and finally, "The Greatest Evils." All of which was something for the early citizens of Honeoye Falls to digest.

In this 1839 edition of the Standard were articles for sale by local tradesmen such as saddles; harness; blacksmiths; Attorney at Law D. G. Shuart, whose office was in the building at the west end of the upper bridge; painting and glazing; hats; tailoring; watchmaker and jeweler; gunman; hardware; buffalo robes; buffalo caps; dry goods, boots and shoes.

The 1839 Standard edition carried some interesting and progressive items such as the following:

"Letters to the editor must be postpaid to insure attention."

The following is especially unique:



"ONE CENT REWARD  
A RUNAWAY

This is therefore to forbid all persons harboring or trusting Marquis De La Fayette Butler on my account, as I will pay no debts of his contracting after this date. Whoever will return this boy will (be) entitled to the above reward but no charges paid.

Henry S. Fellows, East Rush,  
July 23, 1839."

One wonders if such a liberal reward resulted in the return of the fugitive!

Again is shown the persistence, enterprise and courage of the editors:

"BLACK LIST (Me'thinks I hear a groan)

For the edification of those who are likely to profit thereby, we commence this week gracing our columns with the names of some precious scamps who, being subscribers for, had the use of our paper, have left us minus the subscription price. Look at them, Readers! Is not their appearance truly honorable and becoming?" Following appeared a list of defaulters.

And still another:

"One subscriber who did not pay because it was his son who took the paper, and he was a minor. A pretty baby, indeed, to be taking a newspaper and neither Father nor Son would pay the bill. He put us to the expense of ten cents postage for giving us the consoling information that we were defrauded of our just dues. Is he not a trained villain, setting most righteous example before his baby son? If any make payment, they shall have all necessary credit as publicly as they now have discredit."

In 1863 the Mendon Free Press appeared, S. Francis Jory, a former printer in Naples and Lima, publisher and editor. This publication was a monthly costing 25 cents per year (in advance), or 50 cents payable any time during the year. On January 12, 1869, the name was changed to the Honeoye Falls Free Press. In connection with Mr. Jory's business he established a circulating library in 1872. A reading room was opened in the same building with over one thousand volumes.

The Honeoye Falls Gazette made its first appearance on Saturday, August 12, 1876, with A. Tiffany Norton as proprietor, and C. A. Goheen, editor and business manager. It was published in Lima where the publishers also produced the Lima Recorder. Next came the Weekly Times, O'Brien and Gillette, editors and publishers. Their first sheet, larger than the present Honeoye Falls Times, came out on August 31, 1882.

One can only admire the modesty and honest approach of its salutatory editorial as it reflects the stability and integrity of those pioneer newsmen. That editorial follows, in part:

"This being our first effort at journalism we trust the public will not be too severe in their criticism for it shall be our endeavor as we continue to make it more acceptable to our readers, and if hard work, a strict attention to business and economy will make our business succeed, then our success is assured. We will not make too many promises as they are as easily broken as kept, but we will fulfill all promises we do make.

"Our columns are open for the free discussion of all subjects, political or otherwise, retaining to ourselves the privilege of upholding that which is right, and condemning that which is wrong in any sect or party. Our own politics being independent, not neutral."

After several unsatisfactory business partnerships Mr. William J. O'Brien became the sole owner, publisher and editor of the Honeoye Falls Times, the profession he carried on until his death in 1938. Publisher McKendree O'Brien, son of the founder, continues publication of the Honeoye Falls Times today as a weekly that is considered one of the best in the area and has to its credit many national awards for public service.

Through lack of official recordings as to exact locations where shops and homes were located, and a dearth of factual information as to exact dates, this author finds it difficult to describe in detail a chronological pattern that could be called history. There is much of rumor and 'hand-me-down' information pertaining to the Village of Honeoye Falls, but here we are searching for true fact. We must, of necessity therefore, use some imagination in putting down the picture of this young community that comes to mind by following the bits of information that are gathered in this compilation.

A structure which was of practical use to our early villagers and remains today as an integral part of our traffic is the bridge which spans Honeoye Creek at the four corners. We know that the wooden span connecting the Main Street of Honeoye Falls with what was called the "Brooklyn" side of town contained a plank flooring, and area farmers were called upon each spring to bring in wagonloads of dirt to protect the flooring from the wear-and-tear of iron-rimmed carts and wagons and the strike of heavy horseshoes. During firemen's musters an elaborate set of hoops decorated this bridge as overhead frames for flags and bunting.

We discover the particular activities of early pioneers through village and county records such as the arrival of Calvin Perrin, Jason Cross and Samuel Sterling who settled on small farms in the area.

When Jacob Young arrived from Mohawk, Otsego County, in 1798 he erected a small log cabin just north of the Falls on one hundred acres given him by his father-in-law, Zebulon Norton. He later moved in with his son, Andrew Young, in a new frame house and died on March 11, 1872, at the age of one hundred and two years, ten months and eighteen days. He had been a member of the Methodist-Episcopal Church for ninety-five years.

Another early citizen was Benjamin DeGrew, a carpenter and joiner by trade, who first resided in a log cabin until he produced a home that was later occupied by Dr. Knickerbocker, the first medical practitioner. Dr. Knickerbocker was the founder of Knickerbocker Hall in Avon, New York.

The first birth in the village was that of William Sterling in 1795. Three years later, in 1798, Julia, daughter of Ezra Norton, was born and her passing in 1800 at the tender age of two years was the first burial in the Town of Mendon. The second to die was John Moon in 1801. There was a William Moon who came early in the years of settlement for Honeoye Falls who was engaged "in a variety of work." He had two sons, Philip and Stephen.

Again we find the family name of Moon in the first marriage listed, the wedding of Jason Cross and Mary Moon in 1796. The ceremony took place in the log cabin of the bride's father, and all of the neighbors, five families in all, were present. The limited size of the cabin permitted only a few family members and intimate friends to be present inside the home so the remaining guests looked in through a small window while others sat on a rail fence in front of the dwelling.

Further information tells of the old block house which was used as a school, the former dwelling of the Nortons. We know that Welcome Garfield was the first schoolmaster. A Hannah Gates was also one of the early teachers. In the frame schoolhouse which was erected in 1810 the teachers were a Mr. Kidder, Levi Hovey and Abigail Metcalf. This building was the one later moved away to become a residence for Dr. Allen, and a solid brick school building was put up in 1826. One of the most popular and successful teachers in the "select school" was Elisha Hyde. Another stone structure for use in educating the young people of that era was erected in 1855.

Now we can try to picture through the years the changes which took place in Honeoye Falls Village from its conception.

James Dixon, a native of Paris, Oneida County, arrived in 1810 to operate a grocery store in a building which stood on the land now occupied by the United States Postoffice. The owner was a Mrs. Lee. We find that James and John Dixon also built a distillery in 1813 which burned six years later.



There was much of interchange in partnership as business and progress joined to bring additional activity to business. James Dixon continued his promotions by starting an ashery and building a store of his own. Atwell and Grout and Harry and John Case were pioneer merchants, the Atwell and Grout combine erecting another ashery. Taverns seemed to be popular in those early years with Abraham Parrish, John Case and Daniel Gibson, Samuel Ladd and Captain John Lines being landlords of such establishments. Daniel Gibson is identified as the sole owner of a tavern in 1827.

A Mr. Benjamin Baker of East Bloomfield established a blacksmith's shop in 1813 and remained for fifty-five years in that business.

Samuel Wicks introduced a carding machine to the public in a building just back of the Creek, directly behind the schoolhouse. Working with him was a man named Pixley. Samuel Hanna changed this operation to a trip hammer a few years later. In 1815 Mr. Wicks built a woolen factory but ran it as a cloth dressing establishment. Subsequent owners, John and Amos Dixon, sold out to Andrew Young in 1821. Mr. Young ran this business as a carding and fulling machine and later began the manufacture of wool in partnership with Augustus O. Garrett. Mr. Garrett sold his interest to one Elijah S. Post who, in turn, sold out to Hiram Finch. Further negotiation finds Andrew Young selling out to Alexander Anderson who eventually allowed Hiram Finch to become the sole owner.

It is regrettable that little continuity appears in these recordings, but unfortunately real history mattered little to these early pioneers. Most important was the development of their community and the betterment of their existence. Families were to be provided for, homes established, and progress encouraged with little or no time for putting down on paper the happenings of the day.

Eldrick Smith operated a carding and custom machine in 1825 before selling out to O. J. Gilbert. Horace and Zenas Smith soon became the proprietors after a devastating fire and the reconstructed building became an iron factory, later the successful Yorks Foundry.

Information obtained from Miss May Yorks, a life-long resident of Honeoye Falls and still an alert and interested citizen whose details concerning the Yorks Foundry & Machine Shop were most helpful to this writer, tells us that her grandfather, John B. Yorks, took over the stone building now housing the new IGA Store on West Main Street following the use of that structure as a woolen mill. John Yorks, who died in 1881, established his foundry and machine shop where he manufactured many iron tools, plow points and farm equipment for the local farmers and other workers. Upon John Yorks' death the firm was continued in operation by his son, William Rayen

Yorks, in partnership with a brother, Elias L. Yorks. With the departure of Elias from Honeoye Falls, William (or Rayen as he was known throughout his lifetime) continued the business until his passing in 1908. The Yorks Foundry was then operated by Miss May Yorks' brother, Henry, for a short time until it was sold.

Seth Gilsby started an axe factory in the Village which eventually became the property of Samuel Rand. Jasper Parrish was employed here for a time. This business was changed to a woolen mill by Mr. Rand and Mr. Gilbert and continued as such under the ownership of A. C. Allen and Patrick Buggy, and later by the Hunt Brothers.

With Dr. H. Allen's arrival in Honeoye Falls in 1821, let us attempt a picture of what businesses were then in existence: Lyman Norton owned and operated both a grist mill and a saw mill; Hanna & Baxter ran a gun shop; Andrew Young had just introduced his carding machine while Atwell & Grout were operating the store originally established in a house by James Dixon. Atwell & Grout had also started their ashery.

There were now two blacksmith shops, Mr. Baker's and another run by William K. Blaisdell; Daniel Barnes was a wagon maker, Harry Dunn was the owner of a cooper shop, and John H. Fox ran a shoe business. Another carpenter by trade was Ezra Forsyth.

Protection for the village was provided by the appointment of John Wilcox as constable ("... and kept busy with his duties"). An Englishman operated a tailor shop and a Mrs. Bailey took jobs at weaving. During the early years the mail service came through East Mendon and Lima. Squire Wheeler was the first citizen to be appointed in charge of the postoffice and his successors were Edward Downs, a Mr. McBride, John Yorks and R. Ostrander.

On April 1, 1868, Messrs. F. H. Holden, A. H. and B. T. Martin opened a banking office on the corner of Monroe and Main Streets. This enterprise was carried on for eighteen months. On May 1, 1870, Mr. A. M. Holden opened another banking firm in the store of F. H. Holden & Sons. This office was later moved to a house adjoining where it continued under the title, "Bank of Honeoye Falls."

It is amazing to find in 1877 the following business houses open to the public in the Honeoye Falls business area: Eight dry goods stores; grocery stores; drug stores; a hardware store; four merchant and custom tailors; nearly a dozen millinery and dress-making shops; five boot and shoe makers; two harness shops; wagon shops; a stave and heading factory and cooper shops; coal and lumber yards; a planing mill, sash, door and blind factory; blacksmiths; two cabinet shops; two flooring and custom mills; two meat markets; a foundry

and machine shop; a woolen mill; a jeweler's shop; two barber shops; a bank; a printing office; and the services of painters, carpenters, masons, produce buyers, lawyers, insurance agents and a doctor.

It is entirely fitting and proper that some official documentation should be carried in these pages for those interested in governmental standing and decision. The following Charter of Honeoye Falls (Chapter 313) with its Titles, Acts and Laws was passed April 24, 1868. There is also an Amendment (Chapter 429) at its conclusion which was passed on April 29, 1869.

## CHARTER OF HONEOYE FALLS CHAPTER 313

AN ACT to consolidate and amend the several acts relating to the Village of Honeoye Falls, and to enlarge the powers of the corporation.

Passed April 24th, 1868, three-fifths being present.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

### TITLE I. OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE OF HONEOYE FALLS

SECTION 1. The territory embraced in and being all that part of the town of Mendon, in the county of Monroe, bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of the farm known as the old Eldrick Smith farm, on the town and county line; thence in a easterly direction along the town and county line to the centre of Honeoye Creek, at or near the southwest corner of R. Huntington's land; thence northerly along the centre of said creek to the southeast corner of Denton G. Shuart's land, known as the Captain Barrett place; thence northerly on the east line of said Shuart's farm to the northeast corner of said farm; northerly on a direct line to the northeast corner of Andrew Young's farm; thence westerly along the northerly line of said Young and Harry Allen to the southeast corner of lands owned and occupied by Charles Moon; thence south to the center of the highway leading from Honeoye Falls to Rochester, and known as Monroe Street; thence westerly along the center of said highway to the northeast corner of lands owned and occupied by Jonas Smalley; thence southerly along said Smalley's easterly line to the southeast corner of said Smalley's land; thence westerly along the southerly line of said Smalley's land to the northwest corner of land owned and occupied by Mary J. Bailey; thence southerly along the west line of said Bailey's, and land formerly owned by Eldrick Smith, to the place of beginning, shall hereafter be known as the village of Honeoye Falls; and the freeholders and inhabitants residing in said village are



hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of "The village of Honeoye Falls" and by that name they and their successors shall have perpetual succession; shall be capable of suing and being sued, complaining and defending, in any court, may make and use a common seal and alter the same at pleasure, and shall have the power to hold, purchase and convey such real and personal estate as the purposes of the corporation may require.

TITLE II.  
OF THE OFFICERS OF THE VILLAGE,  
THEIR ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT.

SECTION 1. The officers of the village shall be elected by ballot, by the electors of said village, and hold their offices respectively as hereinafter provided, and until their successors shall be duly qualified. There shall be six trustees (one of whom shall be president of the board of trustees), to be classified in three classes, for each class to hold their respective offices for and during the term of three years, so that two trustees shall be elected at each annual meeting, in the place of those whose terms of office shall expire; also one treasurer, one clerk, one police constable, who shall also be collector of taxes and assessments, and three assessors, who shall hold their respective offices one year, and one police justice, who shall also hold his office one year.

2. No person shall be eligible or appointed to any office unless he shall at the time be a resident and elector of said village; and whenever any officer of said village shall cease to be a resident thereof, his office shall thereby be vacated.

3. Every inhabitant actually residing in said village, and who shall have been such actual resident of said village for thirty days next prior to the time of offering his vote, and who shall at the time of offering his vote be qualified to vote for member of assembly, shall be entitled to vote for all officers to be elected by virtue of this act.

4. The election under this act for officers of said village shall be held on the first Tuesday of May in each year, at such place in said village as shall be designated by the trustees; and ten days notice of such election and the place thereof in the public places in said village.

5. The trustees of said village shall be inspectors of elections, and they, or each or any one of them, shall preside at all elections; and in case no trustee shall be present, the electors present may appoint a chairman to preside. The presiding officers at such elections are authorized to preserve order, to judge of the qualifications of voters, canvass the ballots and declare the persons elected who shall have received the greatest number of votes, and shall file such statement forthwith with the clerk of the village, who shall thereupon

notify the several officers of their election.

6. If any vacancy shall happen in any elective office, the board of trustees may appoint an elector of the village to fill such vacancy; and the person so appointed shall hold the office until the next annual election, and qualification of a successor.

7. The trustees shall elect one of their number to be president of the board of trustees.

8. Every person who shall be elected or appointed to any office shall, before he enters upon the duties thereof, take and subscribe the oath required by the Constitution of the State, which oath shall be filed with the clerk of the village, and may be taken and certified by any officer authorized to administer oaths.

9. If any person who shall have been duly elected or appointed to any office in said village shall, for five days after being notified of such election and appointment, neglect or refuse to take the oath of office, or to file the same with the clerk, he shall be deemed to have declined.

10. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the trustees; to call special meetings whenever he shall think proper; to receive complaints of any breach of the by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, and to see that the by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances are faithfully executed and observed, and to prosecute in the corporate name of the village for all offenses against the same.

11. It shall be the duty of the clerk of said village to keep the papers, books and records belonging to said corporation; to record in a book to be provided for that purpose, the rules, votes, orders, regulations and proceedings of the inhabitants at their annual and special meetings, and also all the by-laws, votes, ordinances and proceedings of the board of trustees; to notify officers of their election or appointment as soon as may be after such election or appointment, and to perform such other duties as the trustees may from time to time require of him; and the said trustees may allow to him such compensation for his services as they shall deem proper; but none of the trustees shall receive any compensation for their services under this act.

12. The assessors shall perform all the duties in relation to the assessment of property in said village, for the purpose of village taxation, in the same manner as town assessors, and their assessment roll shall be completed, and notice of the time and place of meeting to review their assessments, given on or before the first day of June in each year; and it shall be the duty of said assessor, when engaged in making the annual assessment of real and personal estate in said

village, to ascertain the names of all persons in said village who are liable to a poll tax for highway purposes, and to enter the same upon and return the same, with their assessment roll, to the trustees of the village. Each assessor shall receive for his compensation such reasonable sum as the trustees may allow therefor, not exceeding one dollar and fifty cents a day for the time actually spent in the performance of his duties.

13. The police justice shall be elected by the electors of said village, at the first annual election under this act, and at each annual election thereafter, and shall hold his office for one year from the tenth day of May next after his election; and such police justice shall receive such compensation as is now allowed by law to the justice of peace of the county of Monroe.

14. In case of the absence from the village, inability to serve, or vacancy in the office of the police justice, any other justice of the peace, residing in the village, shall possess all the powers conferred by this act on the police justice.

15. The police justice shall possess the same powers in all criminal cases, be subject to the same duties and liabilities, and shall collect the same fees, except as herein provided, as justices of the peace in towns. He shall reside and keep an office in the village; and all warrants issued in criminal cases, by any justice of the peace residing in the village, for offenses committed within the corporate limits of said village, shall be made returnable before the police justice, except in cases of his absence or of his inability to act, or of a vacancy in his office, and except in those cases in which such warrants are by law made returnable before a magistrate of another town.

16. All habitual drunkards in the village shall be deemed vagrants, and shall be proceeded against according to the provisions of the second title of the twentieth chapter of the first part of the revised statutes; and all persons who shall be intoxicated in the village, under such circumstances as to amount to a violation of public decency; and all persons who shall indecently expose their persons in the village; and all persons who shall, by noisy, tumultuous or riotous conduct, disturb the peace; and all persons who shall break or injure any awning or awning post, or remove from, or pile up before any door, boxes, casks or other things, for the purpose of annoyance or mischief; and all persons who shall willfully break, injure or deface any trees, fences, shrubbery or other ornamental thing in the village, are hereby declared to be disorderly persons, and may be proceeded against according to the provisions of this act. Persons charged with any offense specified in this section, which is by the existing law a crime or misdemeanor, may be proceeded against according to the



provisions of law, or according to this act.

17. The fees of the police justice shall be collected in the same manner as those of justices of the peace in towns; and he shall, within five days after the same shall have been received by him, pay to the treasurer of the village all fines and penalties that may be collected by him in any such proceeding after deducting his fees; and the police justice may, in all cases where in his judgment a complaint has been made before him without cause, impose the costs and expenses of the proceeding upon the complainant, and enforce the collection thereof against the complainant as in cases of civil jurisdiction.

18. The police justice shall have power, in cases of persons brought before him charged with the commission of any offense designated by this act, or for the violation of any ordinance of the village, to proceed to try such persons, and hear and determine the alleged offenses and charges; and in case any person shall be found guilty of having violated any ordinance of the village, for which a penalty is by the ordinance imposed, said justice shall require such penalty, with the costs and fees, to be paid to him within twenty-four hours, and during that time the defendant shall remain in the custody of a constable; and if the penalty and costs and fees be not paid within that time, may order the defendant to be confined in the county jail or such other place as the board of trustees shall, by resolution, provide, for a time not exceeding sixty days, unless the penalty and costs be sooner paid; and said police justice, or any other magistrate, in cases in which another may act, shall have power to order vagrants and disorderly persons who may have been brought before him for offenses and acts committed within the village, to be confined in the county jail or other places provided by the board of trustees as aforesaid, for a time not exceeding ten days.

19. The said police justice shall have power to take the proof and acknowledgments of conveyances of real estate and the discharge of mortgages, and to take and certify to all affidavits which a justice of the peace of the county of Monroe has a power to take.

20. Said police justice shall, within ten days after his election, take the oath of office required by law, the same as a justice of the peace of the county of Monroe.

21. The treasurer and police constable, and each of them, shall, before they enter upon the duties of their respective offices, execute a bond to the village, by its corporate name, in such sum and with such sureties as the trustees, or a majority thereof, shall approve, conditioned that they shall faithfully execute the duties of their respective offices, and account for and pay over all moneys received by them respectively, according to law, which when approved, shall

be filed with the clerk of the village.

22. The treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the village, and keep an account of all receipts and expenditures; all moneys drawn from the treasury, shall be drawn in pursuance of an order of the board of trustees, by warrant, signed by the clerk and countersigned by the president or presiding officer. for the time being, of said board of trustees; the clerk shall keep an accurate account, under the appropriate heads of expenditures, of all orders drawn on the treasury, in a check-book to be kept by him for that purpose; the treasurer shall exhibit and report to the trustees, once in each year, and oftener as they may require, a full account of the receipts and expenditures, and also of the state of the treasury.

23. The police constable of said village shall, in addition to the other powers herein conferred, have all the powers, and be subject to all the duties by law devolved or imposed upon constables of the county of Monroe.

### TITLE III. OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

SECTION 1. The board of trustees shall meet at such places within said village, and at such times, as they shall by resolution direct; they may also meet, at any time and at any place within said village, when called upon for that purpose by the president, or notified by the clerk; and the clerk may call special meetings of the board of trustees at any time, on the written request of two of the trustees.

2. The president, when present, shall preside at the meetings of the board of trustees and shall have on all questions a casting vote only. In his absence, any one of the trustees may be appointed chairman for the time. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transactions of business.

3. The trustees shall have the management and control of the finances and all the property, real and personal, belonging to the said corporation; and shall have power and authority, within said village, to make, ordain, enact, establish, publish, modify, amend and repeal rules, regulations, ordinances and by-laws, for the following purposes:

1. To prevent vice and immorality; to preserve peace and good order; to prevent and quell riots and disorderly assemblages.
2. To regulate the police of said village; and shall have the power to appoint special police, and the number of five to serve during the leasure of the board.
3. To restrain, suppress and prohibit disorderly, drinking, tippling and gaming houses; to destroy instruments and devices for gaming, and to prohibit all gaming and fraudulent devices within said village.

4. To prohibit the selling or giving away, to be drunk, any intoxicating liquors to any child or youth, under sixteen years of age, without the consent of his or her parent or guardian.
5. To prohibit, restrain and regulate all exhibitions of any natural or artificial curiosities, caravans of animals, theatricals and other shows and exhibitions, circuses or other performance or exhibitions for money or hire, and to authorize the same on such terms as the trustees shall deem expedient.
6. To suppress and restrain houses of ill-fame, and control and regulate or prohibit billiard tables, bowling alleys and pistol galleries.
7. To compel the owners or occupants of any grocery, tallow candle shop, soap factory, tanning stall, privy or sewer or any other unwholesome, offensive or nauseous house or place, to cleanse, remove or abate the same, from time to time, as often as in the opinion of the trustees the same may be necessary for the health, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants of said village.
8. To direct the location of all slaughter houses, and houses for storing gunpowder and other combustible substances; and to regulate the keeping and conveying of gunpowder and other dangerous materials, and the use of candles and lights in barns and other buildings.
9. To prevent horse racing and immoderate riding or driving in the streets of said village, and to authorize the stopping of any one who shall be guilty of immoderate riding or driving in any streets, by any person; and to prevent flying of kites, rolling hoops and playing ball in any of the streets of said village, and to prevent the incumbering or obstructing of the streets, squares, sidewalks, lanes and alleys.
10. To restrain the running at large of cattle, horses and swine, and to authorize the distraining, impounding and sale of the same, for the penalty and costs of keeping and proceedings.
11. To prevent any person from bringing and depositing, within the limits of said village, any decayed carcass or other unwholesome substance, and to require the removal or destruction, by any person who shall have or leave in or upon his or her premises, any substance or any putrid meats, fish, hides or skin of any kind, and on his or her default, the removal or destruction thereof by some officer of the village.
12. To compel all persons to keep snow and dirt from and off the sidewalks in front of the premises owned or occupied by him.
13. To regulate the ringing of bells, and the crying of goods, wares



and merchandise, or other commodities, in said village.

14. To require the removal from said village of all persons (not residents thereof) having infections or pestilential diseases, and to authorize any officer of said village to remove such persons.
15. To establish, make, regulate and guard public reservoirs, pumps and wells, and prevent unnecessary waste of water.
16. To establish and regulate public ponds, appoint keepers thereof, and regulate their compensation and fees.
17. To restrain and regulate hawking and peddling in the streets of said village.
18. To provide for the abatement and removal of nuisances.
19. To prescribe the duties of all officers appointed by the trustees and their compensation.
20. To establish and organize a fire department, the officers and members of which shall at all times be subject to removal by the trustees; to prescribe the powers and duties of both officers and members, who shall at all times be under and subject to the control of the trustees.
21. To regulate, prohibit or restrain the exhibition of fireworks, the explosion of gunpowder and other explosive materials and the discharge of firearms, in said village.
22. To protect property, both real and personal, of individuals, at times of fires, and to appoint guards for the protection of the same, and to prescribe their powers, duties and compensation.
23. To appoint one or more suitable persons to enter at reasonable times, and examine all houses, yards and out-buildings, to ascertain if they are in a dangerous state in regard to fires, and direct and compel the owner or occupant to put the same in a safe condition, and, in default, to appoint any person to do the same, and collect the expense thereof from the owner or occupant.
24. To prescribe the powers and duties of the treasurer of said village, to regulate his compensation, and to fix the penalty of his official bond, and determine the sufficiency of his sureties.
25. To prescribe the duties of the clerk of said village, and regulate his compensation.
26. To provide for the preservation of shade and ornamental trees, in the streets and on the public grounds of said village, and prevent injury to the same.
27. To prevent any injury to the cemeteries in said village, and the defacement, injury, despoilment, destruction, cutting, marring or marking of any tomb, tombstone, monument or other memento, and of the trees, shrubs, plants and flowers therein, and the fences around the same.

4. The said trustees shall have power to determine upon view or upon testimony of witnesses, (who may be examined on oath before them such oath to be administered by one of said trustees), whether any building, slaughter-house, pig-sty, stable, privy, sewer, pool, meat-market, or any other structure, substance or thing whatever, within said village is a nuisance, upon two days' notice to the owner or occupant of the same, and to abate the same by causing it to be removed, and shall have full power to enter upon the premises upon which the same is situated and cause the same to be removed, and may also establish a penalty by an ordinance of said village in respect to any such nuisance, and enforce the same; and all such determinations shall require a concurring vote of two-thirds of all the trustees of said village.

5. The trustees of said village, and each of them, shall have power at any and at all times, to cause to be arrested, by any person and without process, any and all disorderly persons, drunken persons, and common prostitutes found in the streets of said village, and cause them to be taken before any justice of the peace residing in said village, to be by him required to enter into sureties for future good behavior; and shall have power to cause such persons to be detained until a justice of the peace can be found to attend to the hearing of the case; and shall have power at any and all times, to command assistance from any inhabitants of said village to quell all disturbances, riot or riots; and shall at any and all times, in cases of fire in said village, have the power to command assistance of any individual or individuals for the protection of property from destruction by fire or otherwise; and are authorized to cause to be arrested all suspicious appearing individuals present at the occurring of fires and a refusal of any individual to comply with any reasonable direction or request of said trustees, or any or either of them, under any authority conferred by this section, shall subject the individual so refusing to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars and to imprisonment until such fine be paid, not exceeding thirty days.

#### TITLE IV.

##### OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAID VILLAGE.

Section 1. The firemen shall be appointed to serve in the fire department as the trustees shall direct, but any such appointment shall be subject to the approval of said trustees, and made with their consent.

2. The members of the fire department of said village, who are regularly appointed as firemen by said trustees, shall, during their term of service as such, be exempt from serving on juries in all courts, and in the militia, except in case of war, invasion or insurrection, and

shall be exempt from poll tax.

3. The members of the fire department shall elect, at such time and in such manner as the trustees shall direct, a chief engineer and one or more assistant engineers of the fire department, whose election shall be subject to approval by the trustees, and who may be removed by said trustees for incapacity, neglect of duty or misconduct.

4. The chief engineer and assistant engineer shall have the direction and control of the fire department, subject to the by-laws and regulations of the board of trustees; and every member of the fire department, or any other person who shall, during the time of any fire, neglect or refuse to obey the order of the president or any trustee, or of such engineer or assistant engineer, shall forfeit such penalty as shall be provided by the by-laws enacted by the board of trustees, not exceeding five dollars; and the said engineer and assistant engineers shall perform such duties of the fire department as may be required by the by-laws of the board of trustees.

5. The president and trustees, and each of them, shall, by virtue of their office, be fire wardens of said village, and they and each of them, as such fire wardens, shall, when present at the occurrence of any fire, have general supervisory power over, and authority to direct officers and members of the department, and other persons present at any such fire, in such manner as shall be prescribed by the by-laws.

6. The said trustees shall have power to enforce all provisions of this act; and all rules, regulations, ordinances and by-laws, by them enacted or ordained in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by this act, by enacting or ordaining penalties to be incurred for each and every violation of the same, not exceeding twenty-five dollars for any one offence, to be recovered with costs, in an action in the corporate name of said village, in any court having cognizance thereof; and no person shall be deemed incompetent either as justice, judge, constable, juror or witness, by reason of his being an inhabitant of said village, upon any trial for the recovery thereof.

7. Every such rule, regulation, ordinance or by-law imposing any penalty or forfeiture for the violation of its provisions, shall take effect at such time after the passage and publication thereof, as shall be hereinafter provided, and shall be published by written or printed copies thereof being posted in the several public places and streets of said village and proof of such publication by the affidavit of the person so posting the same, taken before any officer authorized to administer oaths shall be filed with the clerk of said village; and such affidavit, or a copy thereof, certified by the clerk under the seal of the village, shall be sufficient evidence of legal publication and promulgation of such rule, regulation, ordinance or by-laws in all courts and



places. Such publication may also be proved by any competent evidence. Any action that may be brought to recover any such penalty or forfeiture that shall be brought before any justice of the peace, may be commenced by summons or warrant. All expenses incurred in prosecuting for any penalty or forfeiture shall be defrayed by the corporation; and all moneys recovered or collected therefor shall be paid into the treasury of the village for the use of said corporation.

8. The trustees of said village shall have power to cause the sidewalks or the streets and highways in said village to be leveled, raised, graveled and repaired, and ornamented with trees; and to compel the owners or occupants of any lands or lots adjoining such sidewalks, to make such improvements upon the sidewalks as aforesaid; and to determine and prescribe the manner of doing the same, and the material to be used thereon, and the quality of such materials; and in case the owner or occupant of any such land or lots shall neglect or refuse to complete such required improvements within such reasonable time as may be required by the trustees, the said trustees may cause such improvements to be made and the expenses thereof may be assessed upon such owner or occupant neglecting or refusing, and added to the next annual tax, by virtue of the warrant of said trustees, as hereinafter provided in respect to the collection of taxes and assessment; and the said trustees may also at their option, direct the collection of the same by suit against such owner or occupant, and the same may be recovered, with costs of suit, in an action in any court having cognizance thereof, by and in the name of the corporation.

9. The trustees shall have power to procure fire engines and other apparatus for the extinguishment of fires in said village, and have charge and control of the same and to provide, fit and secure houses and other places for keeping and preserving the same.

#### TITLE V.

##### OF HIGHWAYS, STREETS AND ALLEYS IN SAID VILLAGE.

SECTION 1. The said village shall constitute one highway district, and the powers and duties of commissioners of highways are hereby devolved upon, and shall be exercised by the board of trustees of said village, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained; and the jurisdiction of the commissioners and overseers of highways of the town of Mendon, within the limits of said village, and over the taxable inhabitants, corporations and banking associations and property therein, and the taxes levied or to be levied on the same or any part thereof, is hereby abrogated; but this act shall not exonerate the taxable property in said village from contributing its proportion of any moneys which shall be raised in the town of Mendon for the repairs of roads and bridges, pursuant to the fourth section of title

first of chapter sixteen of the first part of the Revised Statutes, or chapter two hundred and seventy-four, of the laws of eighteen hundred and thirty-two, or from contributing its proportion for the payment of any debt which has heretofore been incurred for building and repairing bridges in said town.

2. The trustees shall have power to appoint a superintendent of highways for said village, who shall hold his office during the pleasure of the trustees; he shall be subject to the direction and control of the trustees, and to such penalties as may be by them imposed upon him for any violation of any ordinance of said trustees, he shall, before he enters upon the discharge of his duties, take and subscribe the constitutional oath of office, which oath may be taken and certified by any officer authorized to administer oaths, and shall be filed with the clerk of the village; he shall also, before entering upon the discharge of his official duties, give a bond to the said corporation, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the trustees, and in such penalty as the trustees shall direct, conditioned for the faithful expenditure of, and accounting for, all moneys that may come to his hands, which bond, with the approval of the trustees, shall be filed with the clerk of the village.

3. The said trustees shall have power to make, maintain, keep in repair, and, from time to time, cleanse, all necessary drains, ditches and sewers in the streets and alleys of said village, and defray the expense thereof out of the highway taxes. They may also make, maintain and keep in repair all necessary drains, ditches and sewers through any lands in said village not covered with buildings, where it shall be necessary for the public health, or for the benefits of said streets and alleys in said village. In case the said trustees shall be unable to agree as they are hereby authorized to do, with the owner or owners of land through which such ditch, drain or sewer is to be constructed, upon the amount of damage to be paid to such owner or owners, the county judge shall appoint three disinterested freeholders commissioners to apprise the same truly, according to the actual damage over and above the benefit to said lands. Said commissioners shall give at least five days' notice to such owner or owners of such lands of the time when they will meet to apprise such damage as aforesaid; and after due examination at the time so appointed they shall make their apprisement in writing, specifying the amount of damages to be paid to such owner or owners, and shall file the same in the county clerk's office. The said commissioners shall be entitled to two dollars per day each for their services. The expense of making and constructing said drains, ditches or sewers, and the damage agreed upon or found by said commissioners, and their fees, shall be assessed by said

trustees upon the property of the persons benefited thereby, in proportion to such benefit; and the said trustees shall determine who are so benefited, to what extent, and the same shall be collected in the same manner as is provided in respect to assessments for the construction and repair of sidewalk, or they may cause the same to be collected by suit in the name of the corporation of said village. Said trustees shall also have jurisdiction and control over all the drains, ditches and sewers within said village, whether in and upon the streets and alleys thereof, or elsewhere, and may, in their discretion, cause the same, or any of them, or any part thereof, to be kept in repair, and, from time to time, cleansed, and the expense thereof paid out of the highway taxes or other moneys belonging to said village. They may also, in their discretion, require the owners or occupants of any lands or lots whereon any such drain, ditch, or sewer, or any part thereof is or shall be situated, from time to time, to repair and cleanse the same upon their respective premises, as shall be directed by the trustees; and in default thereof, said trustees may cause it to be done, and collect the expense thereof in the same manner as is provided in respect to assessments for the construction and repair of sidewalk, or they may cause the same to be collected by suit, in the name of the corporation of said village.

4. Such proportion of the highway taxes assessed in said village annually, as the trustees may judge necessary, not exceeding one-fourth part thereof, shall be annually expended, by and under the direction of said trustees, upon highways leading to and from said village, and outside the bounds thereof, as fixed by this act, but not to exceed one-half mile distant from said bonds at any point, whenever such expenditure shall, in consequence of the condition of such highways, be necessary in the judgment of said trustees.

5. The trustees shall have power to level and grade the streets and alleys of said village, and to establish and alter the grades thereof, and to cause the said streets and alleys to be used in conformity to such grades as the trustees shall prescribe and establish.

6. The trustees shall have power for the better preservation of the bridges crossing the stream or streams within the limits of said village, to prohibit and restrain all persons driving or riding across said bridge faster than a walk, under such a penalty as the said trustees may deem necessary, not to exceed one dollar for each and every offence; said penalty to be collected by suit in the name of the corporation of said village: Provided that the said trustees shall erect or cause to be erected on said bridge or bridges a notice of said penalty.



## TITLE VI.

### OF TAXES, ASSESSMENTS, AND COLLECTIONS.

SECTION 1. The trustees of said village shall have power to raise, levy and collect by tax upon the taxable inhabitants and property in said village, for the purchase of any real or personal property for the use of said corporation, and to carry out the general objects and to defray the ordinary expenses thereof, such sums as they shall deem proper, not exceeding three hundred dollars in any one year, and also such additional sum, not exceeding two hundred dollars in any one year, as shall be authorized by a vote of the electors who are taxable upon their real and personal property, at the annual meeting for the election of officers in each year.

2. The highway taxes shall be assessed by the said trustees at the rate of one dollar per day for each and every day so assessed; said highway taxes shall be paid in money, and be collected by the collector of said village in the same manner as is herein provided for the collection of other village taxes. Said money, so collected, shall be laid out and expended in improving the highways in and about said village.

3. The assessment roll of said village shall contain near the right hand margin, two several and distant columns, severally headed "general tax" and "local assessment," and an additional column headed "total," in which to set down the sum total of all said taxes and assessments. The real estate assessed shall be briefly but properly described and non-resident lands, if any there be assessed in the same manner as the lands of residents. The amount of tax levied upon each person's name in the roll shall be set down in the proper column, and also the amount of local assessment, if any against the real estate of such person; and in all cases where any tax or local assessment is charged upon any real estate it shall be set opposite the particular real estate upon which it is charged; and the roll shall contain entry, briefly specifying for what purpose any such local assessment was made. The assessment roll, when completed and the taxes and local assessments thereon entered, shall be filed with the clerk, and shall then be denominated the tax roll of said village. A duplicate thereof shall be made, which, with the proper warrant under the hands of the trustees and seal of the village, directed to the collector, shall be the authority of the collector to collect said tax and assessment.

4. All tax rolls when corrected and completed, and filed with the clerk, shall be a lien on the real estate therein described to the amount of the several taxes and assessments as aforesaid; and all taxes and assessments levied as aforesaid, shall be collected by the collector of said village, subject to the provisions of this act, by vir-

tue of such warrant as aforesaid, together with his fees, which shall be one per cent if paid within twenty days after public notice given by the collector of the receipt of such roll, and at the times and places where the same may be paid to him, and upon all sums paid or collected after that time five per cent; and in case any person shall refuse to pay his or her taxes and assessments, or any of them and the fees aforesaid, the collector shall levy the same by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the delinquent, in the same manner as the collectors of town and county taxes are authorized to do; and such warrant shall command, require and authorize such collections of such taxes and assessments, and such enforcement thereof; and all moneys collected by the collector shall, after deducting his compensation therefore, be paid by him into the treasury of the village.

5. Every person elected or appointed collector under the provisions of this act shall, before he enters upon the duties of his office as collector, and within five days after the tax roll shall be filed with the clerk, execute to said village by its corporate name, and file with the clerk a bond with two or more sureties, to be freeholders of the county of Monroe, and to be approved by the trustees, and in such penalty as they shall direct, and conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties as such collector, and for the honest and faithful accounting for and paying over all moneys which shall come to his hands as such collector.

6. Whenever the collector shall receive any warrant for the collection of any tax or assessment directed to be levied by the trustees as provided by this act, it shall be his duty to give the notice required to be given by town collectors as to the place where and the day in which he will receive payment of taxes for twenty days, and which shall be at least two days in each week during the said twenty days, and to receive payment within the time aforesaid, with fees of collection as herein provided; but after the expiration of the time mentioned in said notice, it shall be his duty to proceed and collect the same out of any personal property of the persons whose real and personal estate is assessed or taxed, in the manner required by law for the collection of town and county taxes by the collectors of towns; and in case the said collector cannot find sufficient personal property from which to levy and make any tax or assessment upon any real estate assessed or taxed on said roll, with his fees and costs, it shall be his duty to advertise the premises assessed or taxed, to be sold in the manner and for the time required in cases of the sales of real estate, on executing and conducting the sale in the same manner. Any person may stop the proceedings at any time before the sale, by paying to the collector the amount of tax and assessment charged upon

such real estate, with the interest thereon, collector's fees, and the cost and expense of advertising. All sales of real estate under this act shall be for the shortest period for which any bidder will take the premises and pay the amount of the tax, assessments, collector's fees, cost and expenses. When any sale shall be made by the collector, he shall make and subscribe duplicate certificates thereof, containing a description of the property sold, the amount and time for which it was sold, stating the amount of tax and assessments, and the items of his fees, costs and expenses for which said sale was made, and the time within which the premises may be redeemed, one of which shall be filed with the clerk of the village, and the other shall be delivered to the purchaser. The owner and his judgment creditor shall have the same right of redemption, in all cases of such sales, in the same manner and to the same extent as is allowed by law in cases of sales of real estate by execution. The money, in case of redemption, may be paid to the purchaser or to the village clerk for him. In case of no redemption at the expiration of fifteen months from the day of sale, or in case of redemption by any creditor or creditors of the original owners, it shall be the duty of the president and clerk to issue to the purchaser or the redeeming creditor, as the case may be, a declaration under the corporate seal of the village, and signed by said president and clerk, containing a description of the premises sold, the aggregate amount of taxes, assessments, collector's fees, costs and expenses of sale, and the period for which the premises were sold, which declaration shall be sufficient evidence of the right to use and occupy said premises for said period, to be computed from the day of sale. All buildings which may be erected on the premises during the period of such occupancy, under the right given by such sale and proceedings, may be removed at or before the expiration of the time for which the premises were sold. And all the provisions of the act entitled "An act authorizing mortgages to redeem real estate sold for taxes and assessments," passed May fourteenth, one thousand eight hundred and forty, shall apply to any such sale, and any mortgage of the premises, or any part thereof, shall have the benefit of said act; and the notice required to be given by the second section of said act shall not be given until after the time limited for the owner or his assignees to redeem.

7. The warrant of the trustees to the collector, annexed to the tax roll delivered to him, shall be returnable within forty days after the receipt thereof by the collector, and on receiving such tax roll and warrants, the collector shall make thereon a certificate signed by him, stating the time of its receipt by him, which certificate shall be sufficient evidence in all cases, of the time of the receipt of such tax



roll and warrant by said collector; and in all cases where the collector is obliged to resort to the sale of real estate for the collection of any tax or assessments, the sale of such real estate may be made at any time within three months after the return day of said warrant, and such sale shall be valid notwithstanding such return day shall have passed.

8. Within forty days after the receipt of any tax roll and warrant by the collector, he shall pay over all moneys collected by virtue thereof, to the treasurer of the village, and if any taxes or assessments remain unpaid or uncollected for any cause, he shall make a return containing a statement of such taxes and assessments, the persons against whom the same were assessed, and if any of them are charged upon the real estate, the said statement shall contain a brief description of such real estate, corresponding substantially with the entries in the tax roll, which return or statement shall be verified by oath and filed with the clerk of the village, and if any collector shall refuse or neglect to pay over to the treasurer the sums required by his warrant to be paid over, or to account for the sums so unpaid, the treasurer shall, after the expiration of ten days from the time such warrant is returnable, issue a warrant under his hand and seal, directed to the sheriff of the county of Monroe, commanding him to the same effect, in substance, as in the warrant authorized by law to be issued by a county treasurer against a delinquent collector, upon which the said sheriff shall proceed as he is required by law to proceed on such warrants issued by a county treasurer; and if any moneys shall remain uncollected on such warrant to said sheriff, the village treasurer shall immediately give notice thereof to the president, whose duty it shall be to cause the bond of the collector and his sureties to be prosecuted in the name of the corporation, and the moneys collected in such suit shall be paid into the village treasury.

9. If any tax assessed upon the personal estate of any person, corporation or banking association in said village shall not be paid, and no goods or chattels of such person can be found whereof to make the same by distress or sale, such tax may be levied and made by sale of any real estate in said village owned by and assessed to such person, corporation or banking association, in the same manner as if the same were assessed upon such real estate; and any assessment upon personal estate of any person, corporation or banking association, to whom the real estate owned by such person, banking association or corporation is assessed, shall be a lien thereon in the same manner as if assessed thereon; and in all cases where any tax or assessment shall remain unpaid or uncollected for want of sufficient goods and chattels whereof to make the same by distress and sale, at any time after the

time for the return of the warrant by the collector shall have expired, an action may be brought and maintained by the corporation against the person, corporation or association taxed and assessed, to recover the same with costs of suit, in any court having cognizance thereof.

10. If at the time of levying any annual tax, any tax or assessment levied upon any real estate in any previous year, shall, by reason of a defective description of such real estate, or for any other cause, remain unpaid and the amount thereof, with interest, may be added to such annual tax and charged upon the real estate upon which it was originally assessed, and the same proceedings in all respects for the collection thereof, may be had with the like effect as in case of the tax or assessment on the same real estate for the current year; but in all cases of the charging of any tax or assessment of any previous year upon such real estate, the year or years in which the same was originally levied, shall be separately specified in the proper columns, and the real estate upon which it is charged shall be properly and sufficiently described on the roll by the trustees in case it be not sufficiently described thereon by the assessors.

## TITLE VII.

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. The trustees shall report in writing to each annual meeting of the electors, a statement or account of the receipts and expenditures of the corporation for the preceding year, which statement shall show the name of the persons who shall have had any account or claim allowed by them, the amount of such claim as presented, the amount allowed, and a brief statement of the nature of the demand, and shall be filed with the village clerk.

2. The trustees shall have no power to borrow money upon the credit of the corporation, nor shall they have any power or authority to incur any debt against the corporation beyond the amount of taxes for the current year, without being thereto specially authorized by a vote of the taxable inhabitants of said village qualified to vote upon a resolution for raising money by tax.

3. All officers not made elective by this act, shall be appointed by the trustees, and may be by them removed at pleasure.

4. The trustees shall have power to remit any poll tax levied upon any indigent person who is sick, lame or infirm, and to discharge him from the payment thereof, and also to discharge any judgment which may have been recovered against such indigent person who is sick, lame or infirm, without payment thereof.

5. The trustees shall have full power, in all cases, to correct the assessment and tax rolls, whenever it shall be made to appear to them that any mistake has been made therein; and they shall also have

full power, and authority to correct the descriptions of real estate thereon, and to add all necessary descriptions of real estate thereon, when a proper description whereof has been omitted by the assessors, or when the description thereof by the assessors shall appear to the trustees to be in any way defective.

6. No elector shall be entitled to vote upon any question, resolution or direction, relating to the raising of money by tax or the disposition of any funds or property of the corporation, unless at the time of offering to vote upon such question, resolution or direction, he shall be liable to be assessed and taxed for personal estate therein owned or occupied by him.

7. The term "person" in this act shall be deemed to include all corporations as well as natural persons.

8. In any action brought in the name of, or against the corporation, before any justice of the peace, the president or any trustee shall have full power and authority to appear, prosecute, or answer and defend for the said corporation, without any letter or warrant of attorney therefor under its corporate seal; and simple oral proof of the fact that the person so claiming to appear, prosecute, answer or defend, acts at the time as such president or trustee of said village, shall be sufficient proof of his authority to appear, prosecute, answer or defend; and in any such suit, any verbal or written request by the president or any trustee for any other person so to appear, prosecute, answer or defend, shall be sufficient authority for such person to appear, prosecute, answer or defend for said corporation, without any letter or warrant of attorney under its corporate seal; and such verbal or written request may be proved in the same manner, as in cases of suits between natural persons.

9. In any action brought by, or in the name of said corporation, to recover any penalty or forfeiture imposed by this act, or which may be imposed or given by any rule, regulation, ordinance or by-law passed, ordained or enacted by the trustees, it shall be sufficient, without setting forth any special matter, to allege in the complaint that the defendant is indebted to the said corporation in the amount of such penalty or forfeiture whereby an action has accrued, according to the provisions of this act, naming the subject thereof by reference to the title and section, or according to the rules, regulations or by-laws of said corporation, naming the subject thereof, and referring briefly to the section, other division of the rule, regulation, ordinance or by-law, for the violation of which the action is brought, and also to the date of its passage or enactment by the trustees. And process for the commencement of any such action shall have an endorsement thereon to the effect that it is issued to enforce a penalty imposed in



accordance with the provision of the act, incorporating the village of Honeoye Falls and no other endorsement thereon shall be necessary.

10. The officers of said corporation who are now in office shall hold their respective offices until the tenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and until the officers elected at the next annual election shall have taken their oath of office.

11. This act is hereby declared to be a public act, and the courts shall be bound to take judicial notice of the same, and of all provisions thereof.

12. All acts or laws, or parts of laws, or acts incorporating the village of Honeoye Falls, or amendatory thereto, and the by-laws, rules and regulations heretofore made, are hereby repealed.

13. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### AMENDMENT

##### Chapter 429.

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act to consolidate and amend the several acts relating to the village of Honeoye Falls, and to enlarge the powers of the corporation," passed April twenty-fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

Passed April 29, 1869; three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The first section of title one of An act to consolidate and amend the several acts relating to the village of Honeoye Falls, and to enlarge the powers of the corporation, passed April twenty-fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, is hereby amended so that the same shall read as follows:

1. The territory embraced in and being all that part of the town of Mendon, in the county of Monroe, bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of the farm known as the old Eldrick Smith farm on the town and county line; thence in an easterly direction along the town and county line to the center of Honeoye creek, at or near the southwest corner of R. Huntington's land; thence northerly along the center of said creek to the southeast corner of Denton G. Shuart's land, known as the Captain Barrett place; thence northerly on the east line of said Shuart's land to the northeast corner of said farm; thence northerly on a direct line to the northeast corner of land formerly owned by Jacob Young, now by Andrew Young; thence westerly, taking the north line of said Young's farm as a bearing, to the center of Honeoye Creek; thence down the center of said creek to the northwest corner of lands owned by A. J. Kellogg; thence southerly along said Kellogg's westerly line and the easterly line of lands owned by Wm. H. B. Rogers, to the center of the high-

way leading from Honeoye Falls to the Ball farm; thence continuing said line in the same direction to the place of beginning, shall hereafter be known as the village of Honeoye Falls; and the freeholders and inhabitants residing in said village are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of "The Village of Honeoye Falls" and by that name they and their successors shall have perpetual succession; shall be capable of suing and being sued, complaining and defending in any court, may make and use a common seal and alter the same at pleasure, and shall have power to hold, purchase and convey such real and personal estate as the purposes of the corporation may require.

2. Section four of title two of said act, is hereby amended so that the same shall read as follows:

4. The election under this act for officers of said village shall be held on the second Tuesday of March in each year (except the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, when it shall be held on the first Tuesday of May), at such place in said village as shall be designated by the trustees; and ten days' notice of such election, and the place thereof, shall be given by posting six notices thereof in the public places in said village.

3. Section fifteen of title two of said act is hereby amended so that the same shall read as follows:

15. The police justice shall possess the same powers in all criminal cases, be subject to the same duties and liabilities, and shall collect the same fees, except as herein provided, as justices of the peace in towns. He shall reside and keep an office in the village; and all warrants issued in criminal cases by any justice of the peace residing in the village, for an offense or offenses committed within the corporate limits of said village, shall be made returnable before the police justice, except in cases of his absence, or of his inability to act, or of a vacancy in his office, and except in those cases in which such warrants are by law made returnable before a magistrate of another town.

4. Subdivision two of section three of title three of said act is hereby amended so that the same shall read as follows:

Subdivision two. To regulate the police force of said village and to appoint special police to the number of five, to serve during the pleasure of the trustees.

5. Section ten of title seven of the same act is hereby repealed.

6. All acts or laws or parts of laws or acts incorporating the village of Honeoye Falls, or amendatory thereto, and the by-laws, rules and regulations heretofore made that are inconsistent with this amendment, are hereby repealed.

7. This act shall take effect immediately.

A delightful discovery pertaining to local history is the following composition in its original, written by a school boy, Lucius S. Carpenter, and delivered by him at the Honeoye Falls School on October 11, 1900. For sincerity and color it is carried here verbatim:

The Early History of Honeoye Falls.

"Still from the hurring train of life fly backwards far and fast,  
The mile-stones of our fathers and the landmarks of the past."

The land upon which our village now stands was covered with a dense forest, the solitude of which was seldom, if ever, broken by the tread of white man's foot until the year 1790.

In that year Zebulon Norton, a mill-wright and miller, found his way to a picturesque stream of water which the Indians called the Honeoyyah creek.

Following the course of the creek northward for a short distance, he discovered the falls, from which our present village gets its name. He saw a suitable place to erect a mill, and a short time later bought the surrounding land or 1,820 A. at 12¢ Per A.

In the spring of the year 1791 Mr. Norton brought his wife and son Ezra to their new home. He also brought two yokes of oxen, one horse, two covered wagons, a few household effects and a set of mill stones, tools, guns and so forth.

They at once set to work and by fall had completed a block house (so called because the logs were hewn on both sides). The house was located near the place now occupied by B. F. Moore, and was the first dwelling built in what is now called the town of Mendon.

The next fall (1792) Norton with the help of a few new settlers erected a grist and saw mill and for this reason the place was known as Norton's Mills for a number of years.

After the first mill was burned down, Mr. Norton built a larger one. Mr. Norton's generosity and kindness is shown in this story. A man going to the mill to obtain wheat was asked by Mr. Norton if he had the money to pay for it, to which he answered "yes." "Well," replied Norton, "I've have what you want but I have some poor neighbors who haven't the money and I must supply them. John Scrambling has some to sell, go and buy of him."

The dwelling of Mr. Norton was converted into a school house which was the first in this section of the country and Welcom Garfield was the first school mistress. She believed that "to spare the rod was to spoil the child" and the birch was used frequently.

(Ed. note: records show that the first school teacher was named Welcome Garfield, and his identity as a member of the female gender can be forgiven in the apparent sincere research carried on by School-boy Carpenter.)



In 1810 a frame school house was built. In 1826 a brick structure was erected opposite Mrs. John Barnum's house. This school house contained two rooms, the lower was used for a public school and the upper for a private school.

In the year 1854 the building was enlarged and three teachers were employed. Today our village possesses one of the finest school buildings found in any town or village of its size in western New York.

The first tavern called the Parish Tavern was built about the year 1814 and stood on the corner of Main and Monroe Streets.

In the year 1822 a post office was established and called West Mendon but later about 1838 the name was changed to Honeoye Falls on account of the name of the creek together with the falls. The rates of postage varying with the distance, from 1822 to 1838 were 25, 18¾, 12½ and 10¢.

In 1825 the people of the village built their first church—the Methodist Episcopal. The Pres. Church was organized (March 31, 1831) and in July of the same year the building was completed for religious service. It was 24 x 40 ft. and ten years (1841) the church which is now in use was erected. The St. John's Episcopal was a little later also erected.

In the year 1870 the Catholic Church was built at a cost of \$4,000.

The first Bank was established in 1868.

It is interesting to note the rapid growth of our town, that from a family of three, this village has now reached a population of about 1600."

Written by Lucius S. Carpenter  
Delivered at school Oct. 11, 1900

Within these pages we have tried to bring together the genesis of a village which, like thousands of comparable communities in this nation, have been neglected by having no official historical recordings available.

There is much to be desired in this compilation, both in workmanship and determined fact.

Continued study will be carried on to further clarify what was our past. Let us hope that it is a beginning to light the future.

We have tried to create a picture of what took place in the establishment of a typical American community.

Chronologically there may be error; confliction of dates may appear; what little is recorded (and from which a great deal of our material is derived) could very possibly be at odds with papers discovered in personal and institutional files. There are, admittedly, many fine families and pertinent facts neglected in our report.

This is not so much error on our part as open criticism of our ability and patience.

With no pretense to hide under the mantle of Historian, we present this writing rather for challenge and examination by all interested in our Village and humbly ask that consideration be given our effort, rather than our faults.

It is only a beginning. Far more competent pens will erase our obliquities and set down the facts as they were founded.

There is the hope that enough interest will be aroused so that all may join in a salute to our 125th Anniversary during 1963, whether inspired by what is here contained, or not.

February 25, 1963

The Author

### Acknowledgements

- The New York State Library (The University of the State of New York) Manuscripts and History Section.
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- History of the pioneer settlement of Phelps' and Gorhams' purchase and Morris' reserve, Orasmus Turner.
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